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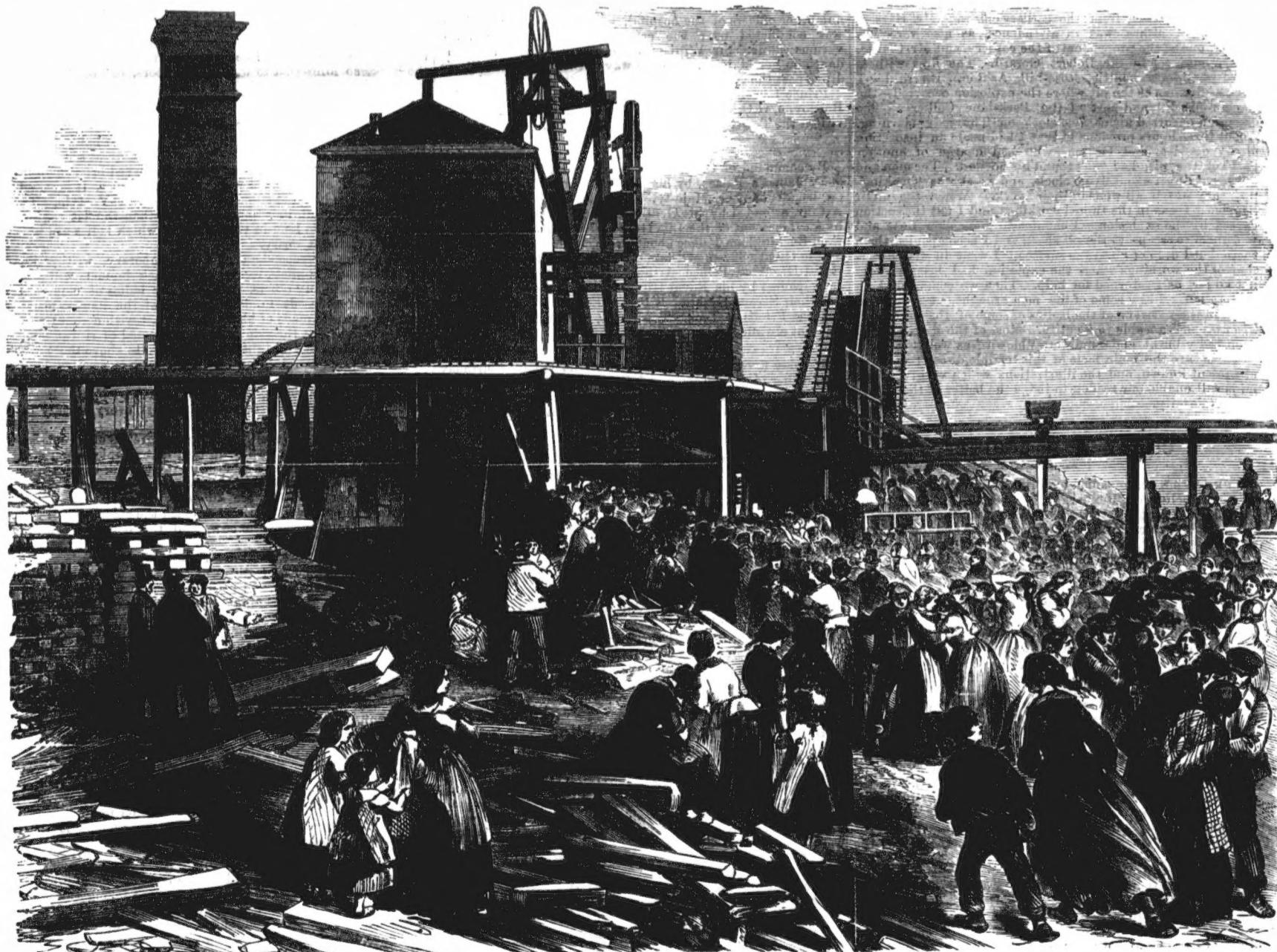
THE DREADFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION NEAR WIGAN.

Once more it is our painful duty to record a dreadful catastrophe in the South-West Lancashire coal-field—another explosion in the fiery Arley mine—and the deaths already number thirty-three. At seven o'clock on Thursday morning last week the usual indications on the pit bank, showed that the Highbrooks colliery, belonging to Messrs. Mercer and Evans, Park-lane, Ashton-in-Makerfield, a short distance from the boundary of the borough of Wigan, had "fired," and the news spread with startling rapidity even for a colliery explosion throughout the district, so that the pit bank was quickly crowded with the friends and relatives of the men who were employed at the pit. Seventy men worked at the place. Of these nearly one-half were brought to bank uninjured; some 15 others were recovered fearfully burnt, or suffering from the effects of the choke-damp; and the remaining 28 were found dead. Five others have since died, and several others are in a most precarious state.

A more unfortunate colliery than the Highbrooks does not exist in the neighbourhood. It stands about a mile from the high road from Ashton to Wigan, at the top of a single line of railway that runs from the central offices. It was here in 1865 that over 100 colliers were imprisoned several days by the breakage of the machinery, and here also in 1866 an explosion occurred by which 30 persons lost their lives. An adjacent colliery belonging to the firm was on fire for many months, so that Messrs. Mercer and Evans have of recent years been very considerable sufferers. The Highbrooks Colliery consists of two shafts—an upcast and a downcast, both originally sunk to work the Orrell five-feet seam, which is found in the upcast at a distance of 280 yards from the surface. In the downcast, however, it was found that a fault occurred which had the effect of throwing the Orrell four feet, or Arley Mine, which should lie 60 yards below the five-feet, to a point 60 yards above it, or at least 120 feet out of its ordinary position. The winning of this four-feet seam has been a matter of no ordinary difficulty, for, as the work has

progressed, fault after fault has obstructed the progress of the work. The seam, too, so notably a gaseous one, has had to be got with the greatest caution, and every means has been adopted which could be suggested to secure the safety of the workmen.

Some eight or ten weeks since, the air entering, the working was split close to the shaft, and one section sent into some tunnel workings, and the walls on the left of the jig-brow, while another was taken into the five feet workings on the right of the jig, and into the slant beyond, where the explosion is supposed to have occurred, and where the bulk of the dead were found. The workmen in the walls, although as far from the pit eye as the men who have lost their lives on the same side of the pit, were, owing to this separate ventilation, enabled to escape by means of the intake air course. In the four-feet slant, all were dead, and in the five-feet workings, fed with air by the same route, a party of 15 men and lads had a hard fight for their lives. The spot was a level where the five-feet seam has been thrown down



THE DREADFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION NEAR WIGAN—SCENE AT THE PIT'S MOUTH.

or the four-feet thrown up, a distance of 60 yards, and the explosion, which they state occurred just before seven o'clock, was felt with great force. They immediately began an attempt to reach the shaft, and they first tried the return air course, but this they found blocked up with boxes, which had been dashed about by the concussion. Two, however, persisted, and these were the first found dead when the search was commenced. Three others tried the intake, Matthew Heyes and two companions, and with great difficulty they got through the smoke damp which filled the road. Many times they stumbled and fell, as they were stupefied by the noxious gas, but they struggled on into safety. The remainder stayed behind, with a wall of after-damp on both sides of them, the approach of which they cut off by the closing of a door. Here they lived an hour, supported only by the air which was in the workings. At the time and shortly after eight they heard the shouts of the searchers, and made their way out. One, however, was left behind—old Bobby Wilson, who was too far gone to make the attempt, and stayed behind to die, but he, too, was recovered before life was extinct.

On the Wednesday morning the fireman, Richard Gortley, had made his customary examination of the four-feet seam, commencing his examination at 4 o'clock, and afterwards returning to the pit-eye to lock the lamps of the colliers when they descended the shaft to their work. Several shots, it is stated, were made ready for firing on the previous evening, and Gortley was asked to superintend the ignition of these as soon as possible. He went to consult with a brother fireman on the pit bank, and then descended again as soon as possible. He left the pit-eye, and proceeded to the southern part of the workings for the purpose of examining the places in order to give the necessary sanction to the firing. Immediately after this the explosion occurred. The force of the blast does not appear to have been felt at any great distance, but in the immediate neighbourhood of the southern workings the stoppings have been blown down, and much of the roof has been loosened.

Later on the Friday afternoon, the inspection of the mine by Mr. Higson, Mr. Mercer, one of the proprietors, and other gentlemen, was completed. It was ascertained with some degree of certainty that there had been a "fast" or "blown-out" shot in the place where a man named Leyland was working, but as this was in a down-brow, it was a spot in which gas was not likely to lurk. No fire-damp was found in the course of the examination, although the usual quantity of air sent into the workings was diminished by nearly one half, owing to the leakage, from the large quantity of brattice which had to be put up in order that the searching party might carry the air along with them. Men were at work at the time of the explosion in every "place" in the district, so there was no spot where gas was likely to accumulate. After the inspection the body of the lad Parkinson, who was unknowingly left in the pit on the Thursday evening, was sought for and found.

The inquest on the bodies was opened on Saturday morning before Mr. C. E. Driffield, at the Park-lane Hotel, which is a short distance from the colliery offices. Mr. Higson, Inspector of Mines, was in attendance, as also were Mr. Mercer, one of the proprietors of the colliery, and Mr. Clarke, mining engineer to Sir Robert Gerard. The first witness called was James Whittle, Rose-hill, Ashton. He said—I work as fireman at the pit where the explosion occurred—the Highbrooks Pit, and part of the Park-lane Colliery. The explosion occurred about 7 o'clock on Thursday morning. About three hours previous to that I had made an inspection of my district, and Gorton, who had charge of another part of the pit, had gone round his portion. The men and boys went down about five o'clock, and as it was "making-up" day nearly all went to their work. When the affair happened I was in the tunnel workings, and I felt the suction caused by the explosion. I shouted to some men near and told them to escape to the pit shaft, and I accompanied them there, but I did not go to the surface. I went in the direction of the workings where the explosion had been, but did not go far, as I returned for help. Then we commenced an exploration. I saw some of the men brought out alive, and aided in the recovery of the bodies of some of the deceased; 27 of whom I am able to identify. Most of the deceased had been badly burnt, and some were "blown" as well.

These are the main facts of this terrible disaster as far as at present known, and the illustrations which we give of the mine will enable our readers to judge the better of the nature of the calamity.

COURT AND SOCIETY.

THE Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise and attended by the Duchess of Roxburgh, drove to Twickenham on Thursday afternoon last week, and visited the Countess of Paris. The Prince and Princess de Joinville and the Duchess de Chartres met the Queen there. Prince Arthur accompanied, and the Equerries in Waiting attended Her Majesty on horseback. Her Majesty returned to Windsor by a special train on the South-Western Railway.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and the Duchess of Roxburgh, drove out on the Wednesday afternoon, and Her Majesty walked and drove in the grounds on Thursday morning with Princess Louise. Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice also went out.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge visited the Prince and Princess Christian during the morning at Frogmore. Her Royal Highness afterwards returned to London, attended by Lady Geraldine Somerset and Major-General Lord Frederick Paulet.

The Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chamberlain had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal Family on the Wednesday. Her Majesty's private band played in the drawing-room after dinner before their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, the Duchess of Cambridge, and his Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, and the Visitors at the Castle.

The Queen drove out on Thursday afternoon, accompanied by Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice also drove out. The Dean of Windsor had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal Family.

On Friday morning Her Majesty went out in the grounds, attended by the Hon. Emily Cathcart. The other members of the Royal Family also went out. Prince Arthur, attended by Colonel Elphinstone left the Castle for Greenwich-park. In the afternoon the Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, drove in the grounds.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice, went to Claremont on Saturday morning. Lady Churchill and Viscount Bridport, Esquire in Waiting, were in attendance. Princess Louise walked in the Home-park, attended by the Hon. Emily Cathcart.

The Duke and Duchess of Argyll and Lord Lawrence arrived at the Castle on Friday, and had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal Family.

The Right Hon. E. Cardwell arrived at the castle on Saturday, and had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal Family.

On Sunday the Queen, their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, attended Divine Service in the Private chapel. The Rev. J. R. Williams, rector of Hedsor, preached the sermon. Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein visited Her Majesty, and remained to luncheon.

The Dean of Windsor and the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal Family.

The Queen went out in the grounds on Monday morning, accompanied by Princess Beatrice. Prince Leopold also went out attended by Mr. Duckworth.

The Queen, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, left Windsor Castle on Tuesday morning at a quarter past eleven o'clock for London.

Her Majesty drove to the railway station in Windsor, and travelled by a special train on the Great Western Railway to Paddington, and proceeded from thence to Buckingham Palace, attended by Lady Churchill, Viscount Bridport, and Colonel H. Ponsonby (Esquires in Waiting), and escorted by a detachment of the 17th Lancers. Her Majesty arrived at Buckingham Palace shortly after twelve o'clock.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Albert Victor, Prince George, Princess Louise, and Princess Victoria of Wales arrived at the Palace shortly before eleven o'clock, from Windsor Castle, attended by Lady Caroline Barrington and Colonel Gardiner.

Hassan Pasha, son of his Highness the Viceroy of Egypt; Musurus Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador; and Colonel Gamble (governor to Hassan Pasha), arrived at the palace at three o'clock in the afternoon. The Earl of Clarendon (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) also arrived, and presented Hassan Pasha to Her Majesty, the Turkish Ambassador being present. Colonel Gamble was also presented by the Earl of Clarendon. The Earl of Clarendon had an audience of Her Majesty. The Marquis of Normandy, Lord in Waiting, and Major-General F. Seymour, C.B., Groom in Waiting, were in attendance.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Louise, visited St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the afternoon. Lady Churchill, the Hon. Lucy Kerr, Viscount Bridport, and Colonel H. Ponsonby were in attendance. The Queen was received on her arrival by the treasurer, the physicians, the surgeons, and other officers of the hospital, after which Her Majesty was conducted over the establishment and through the various wards. Sir William Jenner was present in attendance on her Majesty. On the way to the hospital the Queen drove past the New Meat Market in Smithfield.

Prince Leopold, accompanied by Field-Marshal Sir John Burgoyne, G.C.B., and attended by the Rev. R. Duckworth, visited the Tower of London in the afternoon.

THE QUEEN'S LEVEE.

By command of the Queen a Levée was held on Saturday at St. James's Palace, by his Royal Highness Prince Arthur, on behalf of her Majesty. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, attended by his Gentleman in Waiting, and escorted by a detachment of the Life Guards, arrived at St. James's from Buckingham Palace about two o'clock, and was received by the Great Officers of State of the Royal Household. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur entered the Throne-room, accompanied by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and their Serene Highnesses Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and the Prince of Teck. The Levée, though fairly attended, was not crowded.

The day fixed for the celebration of the Queen's birthday has, by her Majesty's command, been changed from Saturday, May 29, to Wednesday, June 2.

The Queen has created Prince Arthur a Knight of St. Patrick.

PRINCE ARTHUR IN IRELAND.—His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, attended by Major Elphinstone and suite, left on Sunday afternoon, on his visit to Ireland. The Prince and his attendants drove to the Euston Terminus of the London and North Western Railway, for the purpose of travelling by the five o'clock train, by which the Prince travelled, and arrived at Holyhead at 12.50 Monday morning. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur was warmly received along the route through Dublin. He sat in an open carriage with his Excellency the Earl Spencer. At Kingston, on his landing, a royal salute was fired. The day was fine, and the streets were densely crowded.

Prince Arthur and Earl Spencer left Dublin for Punchestown races at ten o'clock on Tuesday morning, and remained on the course until near six. The day was wet. Immense crowds were present, and the Prince was warmly received.

DEATH OF REAR-ADmirAL RUSSELL.—We have to record the death of Rear-Admiral John Russell, at Dover. The late Rear-Admiral Russell, of Mansfield, Ayrshire, was in his 60th year, and was brother of Major-General D. Russell, C.B., commanding the South-Eastern district. He entered the navy at an early age, and obtained his Lieutenantcy May 9, 1832, and was promoted to commander November 4, 1840. He was senior lieutenant of the *Szemboli*, Captain W. J. Williams, at the bombardment of Acre. He obtained his post rank in 1845, and became rear-admiral November 13, 1863, on reserved half pay.

NO MORE MEDICINE.—Health restored by Du Barry's delicious *Revalenta Arabica Food*, which cures dyspepsia, indigestion, cough, asthma, consumption, debility, constipation, diarrhoea, palpitation, nervous, bilious, liver, and stomach complaints. Cure No. 68,413.—"Beras, July 21, 1866. The health of the Holy Father is excellent, especially since, abandoning all other remedies, he has confined himself entirely to Du Barry's Food, and his holiness cannot praise this excellent food too highly."—*Cassette*. Du Barry and Co., No. 77, Regent-street, London, W. In tins, at 1s. 1d.; 1lb., 2s. 9d.; 12lbs., 22s.; 24lbs., 40s. Also Fortnum and Mason, and all grocers and chemists.

THE DRAWING ROOM.

THE FASHIONS.

PARIS modistes are now very busy in preparation for the spring costumes, and we will turn therefore to notice what has been revealed in this direction up to the time we write. Although a very cold spring is succeeding to a mild winter, new and light fancy materials are put forth, as the weather may change any day.

We see, says a contemporary, many *nouveautés* in *poil de chèvre*, a sort of mohair of good quality. There are lovely shades of grey, delicate and silky; and these mohairs, which are soft without being at all limp, make up extremely pretty costumes for walking. The full costume consists of a dress the skirt of which is trimmed round the bottom by a gathered flounce, headed with a bouillon or marquise ruche. Then a second skirt, trimmed all round with cross stripes and a fluting, draped and looped up with bows. And lastly, a mantelet or casaque, but the mantelet is perhaps the most graceful.

One of the prettiest models falls like a pelerine on the back, with short round lappets underneath. Other lappets are added in front, and passed under a waistband, which is fastened with a bow at the back. The whole mantelet is trimmed with a fluting and cross-strip.

Nothing can be more tasteful for a simple morning toilette in spring than the complete costume thus made of grey *poul de chevre*, with the flutings of the same material, and the cross-strip also of the same kind of tissue, but of a lighter shade. The skirt of the dress is short—that is, it either only touches the ground, or else does not touch it at all, coming down about half an inch from it, which is preferable to avoid the dust and soil. In no case is the dress train shaped for these simple walking costumes.

Amongst the newest spring toilettes as yet described is one of palemaize-clad mohair. It is trimmed with three flutings of the same material, each headed with a cross-strip of mauve-coloured mohair. A tight-fitting casaque has deep basques, slit open at the back and at the sides; one fluting and mauve-coloured-cross-strip goes round this casaque. Waistband ornamented with bows of the same colour as the dress, edged with mauve. Tight sleeves trimmed to correspond.

What a struggle has been going on all the winter between the adherents of the long and those of the short dress? Neither party has confessed to being conquered. They have come to terms—there has been a sort of reconciliation. For le commun des mortelles it is evident that the short dress will be the only one worn this summer. Of course we mean the dress minus the train, and the pretty double or tunic skirt will make up elegant simple toilettes both for indoors and out of doors.

But for the grande dame the question is still open—the train is still thought indispensable both for reception and visiting, evening and ball dresses, or if not indispensable it is preferable—at least such is the opinion of a small majority among the élite of society. As a compromise between the contending parties, many fashionable dresses are made short in front, and rounded off like an apron, and long, very long at the back, so long that to walk out of doors, or even to move with any ease indoors, this long train is either looped up or taken up on the arm."

PARIS HATS AND BONNETS.

At the last races of La Marche, a new style of hat made its appearance, and created, as the phrase is, a great sensation. It is a somewhat high-crowned hat, with curved brim shading the forehead, and trimmed with beautiful plumes. It is called the Versailles hat, and is quite in the Louis XIV. style. To most faces it is infinitely more becoming than the flat toque which had been so long in vogue, but of which ladies are becoming somewhat weary.

The Paris correspondent of a contemporary, writing on Paris hats and bonnets, remarks that black bonnets will still be preferred to any others, especially by ladies of moderate means, and proceeds to describe some of the newest black bonnets. One is made of black spotted net with coronet and lappets of lace; at the side a bow, composed of ribbed silk, the points standing upright; a blue aigrette above the bow. The lappets fastened below the chin with a smaller blue bow. It is so difficult to convey any idea of a bonnet without an illustration, but this graceful-looking head-dress has the advantage of suiting almost every variety of toilette.

Midme Moreau Didsbury sends home aigrettes of all colours with every bonnet of this description; for example, when you buy a black bonnet with a blue aigrette, a pink bow with a black aigrette, a mauve bow with a mauve aigrette, a claret bow, a green bow, &c., are all sent with it; so that the trimming may always correspond with the remainder of the toilette. Only change the bow, and the bonnet has quite another aspect.

Another bonnet is called the "Fadette;" it is bordered all round with black curled feathers, and there is a large coloured crepe bow in the centre, and at the side a rose with some white lilac forms an aigrette. Many of the milliners are showing straw bonnets; the generality of the new shapes are low on the forehead, and advance somewhat in a point in the centre. Fringes of various colours will be the general trimming for straw bonnets; and these will assimilate well with the Indian shawls that are to be converted into mantles, and with the French cashmere costumes that report says are to be fashionable this spring.

Straw bonnets are also to be trimmed with black velvet; a bow of it ornaments the top of the head; and below the bow there is a large scarlet poppy which falls over the chignon. The strings, that are tied simply under the chin, are likewise black velvet. Sometimes a large rose takes the place of the poppy, or a bouquet of violets, which are always favourite flowers in the spring. Toquet hats will be more popular than ever, particularly the "Valois" toquet, which is very high in the crown.

HINTS FOR YOUNG LADIES.

The great problem presented by the fashions of the present day is, How to dress simply? How, says the young Englishwoman, can I follow in any degree the modern fashion of puffed-out, looped-up, double skirts, and of Watteau casques and many lappeted mantelets, and yet dress with the graceful simplicity which becomes my age and station?

The problem, according to the monthly magazine professing to cater to the wants of "Young Englishwoman," is not so very difficult to solve, and the writer accordingly gives the following advice on the subject. First, as to dress.

You say you cannot give up at once all the pretty dresses in your wardrobe, and that neither can you afford to buy as many mantles and underskirts as you buy dresses. Now this we understand perfectly well.

But Madame la Mode is not as exclusive as you seem to think her. You hear it affirmed that no paletot different to the dress is now worn, but if you call the dress an underskirt, and the paletot an upper dress, you can have the latter made of black silk, and thus wear it with all dresses of a former season. All those dresses which were cut, gored, and train-shaped can be made use of by this means. They must be cut so as not to come down below the ankle, and trimmed with one gathered flounce, headed with one ruche, or with several narrow flounces, which can easily be made out of the material cut away at the top of the skirt. With this skirt one can wear a tight-fitting paletot of black silk or cashmere; or, again, a black silk bodice, trimmed with a lace berthe or brelettes, and a puff or tunic of the same materials.

The tight-fitting paletots, or the bodices with the puff or tunic, can be worn with all silk dresses, and principally with those of striped silk, for stripes are more fashionable than ever, but especially for underskirts.

The only change, then, is that of the name; and instead of wearing a black silk paletot you can wear a black silk upper dress, and have a toilet at once simple and fashionable.

We prefer for young ladies the new Louis XVI. tunic dress of black gros-grain silk. The tight bodice is trimmed like a berthe or fichu with a fluting headed with one or more cross strips; the skirt is short and rounded off in front. It is also looped up on each of the seams at the back, with bows, or loops without ends. Another, and larger bow of the same style, is added to fasten the waistband; the trimming, fluting and cross strips are continued all round the lower edge of the dress. The tight sleeves are trimmed no longer on the shoulders, but on the elbows and wrists; a bow is often added outside just at the bend of the arm. This style of ornament is called a *brassard*, and is quite new. With this style of upper dress no paletot or mantle is required, which makes it extremely useful.

Should the young Englishwoman, however, contemplate buying a new and elegant spring dress, we should rather advise her to have both underskirt and upper dress of the same material, silk or foulard. Also for the spring walking toilets, of chaly, mohair, and other fancy materials, it is best to have the costume complete. The grey mohairs are excessively pretty this year, and make up very nice demi-toilette costumes.

THE GARDEN.

FLOWER-GARDEN.

The seed of hardy annuals, as we have already hinted, may now be sown outdoors in patches in the beds and borders where the plants are to bloom; let them be frequently watered should the weather prove dry, both before and after the plants come up. When they have been up about fortnight let all the large growing kinds be thinned where they are too close together, taking care to pull up the weakest plants. The following are convenient sorts to sow now:—Convolvulus major and minor, sweet peas and nasturtiums, lupins, larkspur, candytuft, Virginia stock, &c., &c.

For tender annuals it would be well to make a new hot-bed, where space will admit of it for the sowing of seed, so as to keep up a succession of plants to follow those raised in February and March.

Grass-turf must have every necessary attention now, or the consequences will be a burnt-up lawn by July, and the predominance of coarse grasses. Proper care of grass-turf now not only preserves its beauty for present enjoyment, but improves the quality, frequent mowing tending to weaken the coarse grasses and encourage the finer kinds, which latter are overpowered and choked out when the strong-growing kinds are allowed too much their own way.

Continue by the aid of frames, &c., to propagate any further supply of Dahlias which may be required. Sow seeds of Polyanthus and Auriculas of the Alpine sections in pans, and place them in a sunny shelf in a moderate temperature only. Prick off into pans, boxes, or pots, such things as seedling Lobelias, Pyrethrums (especially the Golden Feverfew), Chamaepelus, Echeverias, and other ornamental foliage plants of the more hard-wooded sections, and which require pushing forward.

PLANT-HOUSES AND FRAMES.

Greenhouse.—Considering the easy culture of many subjects with ornamental foliage and of a stately habit, it is somewhat singular that we do not see less of the commonplace arrangements of the conservatory through the summer and autumn when are, unhappily, so abundant. All the Cannas are beautiful in foliage and flower; some more so than others. Many have spikes of flowers equal to the Gladioli. Nicotiana Wigandii and the striped Japanese maize are grand for conservatory decoration. Seeds sown at once, and the plants treated liberally, will attain considerable dimensions by the middle of summer. The Cannas flower best from roots started now. Cordylines, Dracennas, Araiias, and greenhouse palms should have a shift now if the soil they are growing in is exhausted. If the pots in which these are growing are already large, reduce the balls of soil, and repot in the same size again; with the exception of the palms, which must not be disturbed.

Stove.—Achimenes and gloxinias are growing away finely now, and require no more bottom-heat. They should be potted on as necessary, and be placed in the coolest end of the stove, near the glass, and have plenty of air. As these plants are intended for the conservatory, it is of no use to draw them up too tender. Ferns of all kinds are now making new fronds, and must not be allowed to suffer from drought. Syringe the strong-growing kinds lightly, and the delicate growers not at all, and sprinkle the paths and walls freely.

Fram's.—Increased supplies of water will be necessary to azucenas, pansies, pinks, and other florists' flowers. Use stimulating mixtures cautiously.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

Autumn-sown cauliflowers and cabbages may all be finally transplanted on to their summer quarters upon the first favourable opportunity. When either of these are pricked out or transplanted into freshly dug soils, be careful to tread the ground all over first, and to tread the roots of each plant firmly into the soil. If cold winds prevail, drill rows may be drawn, along which they should be planted, as part protec-

tion from chilling winds, &c. Sow successional crops of spinach, lettuces, celery, and some of the New Zealand perennial spinach, upon a slight hot-bed; it will come in well, and in good time for transplanting into the open borders in May.

HARDY FRUIT GARDEN.

The present is a very trying period for all tender wall fruits. Those only who are in possession of a good protective covering can hope to secure a perfect crop this incoming summer. The rays of the sun, as we shall find, have gained much power during the past period of cloudy weather; hence the need of such caution.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

MR. PLANCHÉ's farce called "The Captain of the Watch"—a free adaptation of a pleasant little French piece by M. Lockroy, entitled "Le Chevalier de Guet"—has been revived here; chiefly, it would seem, for the purpose of introducing Mr. Sothern in the character of the Viscount de Ligny. The first representative of the part upon the London stage was Mr. Charles Mathews, who played it at Covent-garden some eight-and-twenty years ago, when the cast also included Mr. Bartley as the Baron, Mrs. Walter Lacey as Kristina, and Mrs. Humby as Katryn. The farce is one of those ingenious bits of dramatic mechanism, full of gay intrigue and droll adventure, in which the Parisian playwrights pre-eminently excel. A well-contrived plot, based in the main upon the ludicrous escapades of the captain of the Brussels watch, who at night finds his way into a strange house, where he is mistaken for a spruce young officer in search of his sweetheart, grows more comically intricate in each succeeding scene till at last it becomes quite a game of "colimaillard," in which the players are all upon the wrong scent, and everybody is mistaken for somebody else. Mr. Sothern, as the captain, acts with appropriate gaiety and grace, skilfully preserving the genial temper and gallant bearing of the character without the least appearance of gaconade. His De Ligny is a gallant fellow, dashing through life with the zest and buoyancy of an ardent intrepid spirit, fond of romantic adventure, but maintaining in every emergency his native refinement and perfect tone of good breeding. The credulous old Baron finds an excellent representative in Mr. Chippendale, and Miss Caroline Hill plays the Abigail with amusing vivacity. In the old farce of "Make your Wills," with which the evening's entertainments conclude, Mr. Buckstone takes the old part of Joseph Brag, which he performs as usual with hearty humour.

NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.

AMONGST the notable Easter-holidays fare provided at the theatres which we have not yet noticed, is the enticing bill put forth by Mr. Douglass at the Standard, a noble Thespian temple that should command the patronage of the Eastern and a large section of the North-eastern Districts. Mr. J. T. Toole is in the full swing of a highly successful starring engagement, and the cast is also strengthened by several of the leading artists from the New Queen's. The pieces selected are eminently adapted to give full play to Mr. Toole's peculiar genius, and as the Michael Garner of Byron's *Deader than Life* his pathos is only equalled by his marvellous comic powers as Simmons in the capital farce of *The Spitalfields Weaver*. The other characters are sustained by Lionel Brough, Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Keet Webb, Miss Maria Simpson, and Miss Ellen Turner.

A SEASON OF FRENCH PLAYS WILL COMMENCE AT THE ST. JAMES'S THEATRE ON THE 26TH OF THIS MONTH.

IT has become the fashion in the Turkish harems to learn music, and a teacher on the pianoforte (of course a lady) has made a fortune by giving lessons to the fair inmates of those peculiar institutions.

A PICTURE painted on panel, attributed to Hans Memling, and known at Bruges since 1477, representing the "History of Troy," from its foundation to its fall, was bought at the Hotel Drouot, for the South Kensington Museum, for £608.

MADAME JERVIS RUSSET, formerly known in London by her precocious talent as a pianist of great promise, has recently created quite a sensation at Dublin in Mendelssohn's G minor concerto.

THE NEW THEATRE INTO WHICH THE POLYGRAPHIC HALL IS TO BE TURNED WILL OPEN IN MAY UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF MESSRS. BRADWELL AND FIELD. DRAMA AND BURLESQUE WILL BE ITS SPECIAL RANGE.

MR. JOHN PARRY HAS BEEN SUFFERING FROM AN ILLNESS OF THE SAME CHARACTER AS THAT WHICH SOME YEARS AGO NECESSITATED HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CONCERT-ROOM. HE IS, HOWEVER, MUCH BETTER.

THE DEATH IS ANNOUNCED OF THE ABBÉ GAUME, CANON OF NOTRE DAME DE PARIS, AND FORMERLY VICAR-GENERAL OF THE DIOCESE. HE WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE *Va Rondeur*, WHICH INCURRED THE DISAPPROBATION OF MGR. DUPANLOUP.

THE ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES THAT MR. BUCKSTONE HAS ENGAGED MISS BATEMAN AT THE HAYMARKET THEATRE FOR FOURTEEN FAREWELL PERFORMANCES PREVIOUS TO HER DEPARTURE FOR AMERICA.—MRS. HERMANN VEZIN HAS ACCEPTED A TWELVEMONTH'S ENGAGEMENT AT THE HOLBORN THEATRE.

LAMARTINE HAD THE SAME HAIRDRESSER FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS. THIS WISE BARBER FORTUNATELY PRESERVED THE SUPERFLUOUS HAIR CLIPPED FROM THE HEAD OF THE DECEASED POET, AND IT IS NOW ENABLED TO SUPPLY ALL FRIENDS AND ADMIRERS OF LAMARTINE WITH A LOCK OF HIS HAIR—for a consideration.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT IS ABOUT TO BE MADE TO ESTABLISH A COMIC PAPER IN NEW YORK. THE CAPITAL IS SAID TO BE 50,000 DOLLARS. THE MOST LIBERAL CONTRIBUTOR IS SAID TO BE A GENTLEMAN CONNECTED WITH THE ERIE RAILROAD DIRECTORSHIP. THE FIRST NUMBER WILL APPEAR ABOUT JUNE 1.

THE ATHENEUM IS ABLE TO STATE, ON AUTHORITY, THE INTENTION OF MR. HENDERSON, OF MONTAGU-STREET, TO BEQUEATH TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM DEPARTMENT OF PAINTS AND DRAWINGS HIS COLLECTIONS OF THE WORKS OF DAVID COX AND WILLIAM MÜLLER.

THE ADMIRALTY HAVE SANCTIONED A REPETITION OF THE DREDGING EXPEDITION, BY DR. CARPENTER AND PROFESSOR WYVILLE THOMSON, TO THE NORTH-WEST OF THE FAROE ISLES, DURING THE COMING SUMMER.

A PAMPHLET, ENTITLED "THE OPERA AND THE PRESS," WILL SHORTLY APPEAR FROM THE PEN OF MR. C. L. GRUNEISEN, WHO

WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL FOUNDERS OF THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, HAVING PREPARED THE PLAN OF OPERATIONS FOR SIGNORI PERSIANI AND GALETTI, ON A LARGE SCALE, FOR COVENT GARDEN THEATRE, THEIR ORIGINAL INTENTION HAVING BEEN TO START ONLY AN OPERA BUFFA AT THE ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

A MAGNIFICENT missal desk, executed by order of the Commission of Hospitals as an offering to his holiness for the celebration of mass on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, was presented to the Pope by Monsignor Ricci. A splendid missal, printed in colours at the Propaganda Typographia, richly illuminated and gorgeously bound, was presented to Pius IX. on the same day in the name of the Council of State for the Finances.

THE PROPERTY IN HALFWAY, IRVINE, comprising the house in which James Montgomery, "the Christian poet," was born, and the Moravian chapel in which his father preached, has been brought to public sale, and bought by Mr. Maxwell Dick, bookseller. We understand that Mr. Dick has made the purchase for the Irvine Burns Clubs, the members of which had some time ago expressed a desire to secure the buildings and maintain them in good repair.

DR. WYLDE HAS ISSUED THE PROSPECTUS OF HIS NEW PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS FOR THE SEASON OF 1869, THE EIGHTEENTH, AND IF THE PROMISES PUT FORTH ARE ADHERED TO WITH ANYTHING LIKE EXACTNESS, THE SERIES WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER HELD. ST. GEORGE'S HALL HAS BEEN GIVEN UP FOR THE LARGER ROOM OF ST. JAMES'S-HALL, A STEP NECESSITATED BY THE GROWING POPULARITY OF THESE CONCERTS, AND THE PERFORMANCES HAVE BEEN FIXED FOR THE 14TH AND 28TH OF APRIL, THE 19TH MAY, AND THE 2ND AND 16TH OF JUNE.

MR. PUTNAM, OF HIGH-STREET, ETON, RECENTLY PURCHASED FOR A SMALL SUM AN OLD PICTURE FROM A FURNITURE-DEALER IN WINDSOR. UPON CLEANING AND EXAMINING THE PAINTING, IT WAS DISCOVERED TO BE A GENUINE RUISDAEL. THE SUBJECT IS A WOODLAND SCENE, WITH A COTTAGE RIVER AND BROOK, AND SEVERAL FIGURES. IT IS A GEM OF ART, AND HAS A NUMBER OF THE PAINTER'S PRIVATE MARKS AS WELL AS HIS SIGNATURE. JACOB RUISDAEL PAINTED IN THE SEVENTEEN CENTURY, AND THE VALUE OF THIS PICTURE, WHICH HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY A NUMBER OF CONNOISSEURS, IS SET AT SEVERAL HUNDRED GUINEAS.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL PIECE, "LIFE FOR THE CZAR," AT THE MARIA THEATRE, ST. PETERSBURG, SOME DAYS BACK, A GENTLEMAN DEPUTED BY THE PUBLIC STEPPED ON THE STAGE AND OFFERED TO MDLLE. LAVROSKY, WHO PERFORMED THE PRINCIPAL PART, A BOUQUET AND A MAGNIFICENT BRACELET. THE LADY ACCEPTED THE FORMER BUT DECLINED THE LATTER, DECLARING THAT SHE DID NOT REQUIRE SO VALUABLE A PRESENT TO PRESERVE FOR EVER A RECOLLECTION OF THE KINDNESS SHOWN TO HER; SHE ADDED THAT SHE RECEIVED A VERY LIBERAL SALARY FROM THE MANAGER, AND EXPRESSED A WISH THAT THE JEWEL SHOULD BE SOLD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR.

WE LEARN THAT A NEW ITALIAN OPERA COMPANY HAS BEEN FORMED, INCLUDING ARTISTES OF EUROPEAN CELEBRITY, WITH AN ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS CHIEFLY SELECTED FROM THE DISBANDIED FORCES OF HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. THE SEASON WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY, MAY 3, AT THE THEATRE ROYAL, LYCEUM, WHICH HAS BEEN SECURED FOR A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS; AND THE REPERTOIRE WILL INCLUDE A NUMBER OF OPERAS AS YET UNKNOWN IN THIS COUNTRY. THE SEASON WILL EXTEND TO AUGUST, AND SIX REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE GIVEN WEEKLY. ON TWO EVENINGS IN EACH WEEK THE PERFORMANCES WILL COMMENCE AT EIGHT O'CLOCK INSTEAD OF HALF-PAST EIGHT, AND ON THOSE EVENINGS THE REGULATIONS AS TO FULL-DRESS WILL BE SUSPENDED. THE PRICES OF ADMISSION WILL BE EXTREMELY MODERATE.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

NOVEL BOAT RACE.—AN INTERESTING BOAT RACE TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON BETWEEN FOUR BOYS OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIP CHICHESTER AND FOUR PICKED MEN FROM THE PRUSSIAN MAN-OF-WAR PADDLE-STEAMER ADLER, AT GREENHITH. THE COURSE WAS FROM THE CHICHESTER PAST THE ADLER, AND ROUND THE LOWER SWINGING BUOY AT GREENHITH, A DISTANCE OF TWO MILES, AND BACK TO THE CHICHESTER. THE LEAD WAS TAKEN AND KEPT THROUGHOUT BY THE BOYS, WHO, AFTER A HARD AND EXCITING RACE, WON BY ABOUT SIX BOATS' LENGTHS, AMID THE HEARTY CHEERS OF THEIR 200 MASSACRES. THE RACE WAS WATCHED WITH GREAT INTEREST AND ANXIETY BY THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE PRUSSIAN IRON-CLAD FRIGATE KING WILLIAM, MOORED AT GREENHITH, WHO WERE RATHER SURPRISED AT THE RESULT. A CHALLENGE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN BY THE CHICHESTER BOYS TO THE CREW OF THE KING WILLIAM, BUT IT WAS NOT ACCEPTED.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT THE GUN CLUB.—THE INCREASED ATTENDANCE ON SATURDAY INDICATED THE ADVANCE OF THE SEASON, AND THAT A GREAT DEAL OF SPORT MAY BE FULLY ANTICIPATED. UNDER THE OLD REGIME IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE OPENING DAY—THE FIRST SATURDAY IN APRIL—but THAT EVEN OCCURRED A FORTNIGHT AGO. EXACTLY 20 MEMBERS TOOK PART IN THE SWEEPSTAKES THAT CAME OFF, AND THE SHOOTING WAS OF THE VERY HIGHEST CLASS, THE BIRDS BEING ALMOST ALL BEST BLUE ROCKS. IN THE FIRST SWEEPSTAKE 18 TOOK PART, MR. T. TURNER FARLEY AND MR. HENRY RAE REID KILLING 9 EACH, AND DIVIDING, CAPTAIN E. C. NEVILLE AND MR. AUGUSTUS GRIMBLE SHOOTING UP. IN THE SWEEPSTAKE 61 BIRDS WERE KILLED AND 16 MISSED. IN THE SECOND TURN CAPTAIN J. J. W. FREDRICKS, AND CAPTAIN E. C. NEVILLE DIVIDED BY KILLING FOUR EACH, THOSE WHO MISSED THEIR LAST BIRDS BEING SIR HENRY POTTINGER, MR. DAVID HOPE JOHNSTONE, CAPTAIN W. PEARETH, AND CAPTAIN A. STEWART; 28 BIRDS WERE KILLED TO 17 THAT GOT AWAY. THERE WERE 19 IN THE SWEEPSTAKE, AND ALSO IN THE THIRD, WHICH WAS TAKEN BY MR. HENRY RAE REID WHO BROUGHT DOWN 8 BIRDS IN SUCCESSION, AND WHO IS ONE OF THE COOLEST AND STEADIEST SHOTS IN THE CLUB. MR. R. R. PEYTON, AND CAPTAIN W. PEARETH MISSED THEIR EIGHTH; 54 BIRDS WERE GATHERED AND 18 ESCAPED IN THAT ROUND. THE LAST SWEEPSTAKE HAD ONLY 15 ENTRIES, MR. R. C. MUSGRAVE AND MR. F. NORRIS DIVIDING THE SPOIL, BY DROPPING 7 BIRDS EACH, SIR HENRY POTTINGER FAILING AT HIS LAST BIRD; 37 KILLED, 13 MISSED, WAS THE RECORD, MAKING THE TOTAL ON THE DAY 211 SHOT AT, 180 KILLED, AND 64 ESCAPED, AND AS THE BETTING WAS VERY HEAVY AT 2 TO 1 AND 5 TO 2 ON THE GUN, THE PROFESSIONALS HAD A VERY BAD TIME OF IT.

DURING A RECENT RUN WITH THE ESSEX STAGHOUNDS MR. SOTHERN WAS RIDING A PULLING THOROUGH-BRED AT ONE OF THE YAWNING ESSEX DYKES, WHEN A GENTLEMAN UNFORTUNATELY CROSSED HIM, CLEARED THE DITCH AND BANK, BUT ROLLED OVER, HORSE AND ALL, ON THE OTHER SIDE. MR. SOTHERN THEREUPON "PUT ON STEAM" TO CLEAR THEM, AND HIS HORSE, TAKING A NEAT "ON AND OFF" FROM THE BACK OF THE FALLEN HORSE AS IT WAS IN THE ACT OF RISING, LANDED SAFELY A FOOT IN ADVANCE OF THE HEAD OF THE PROSTRATE RIDER.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES IN THE EAST.

THEIR royal highnesses, returning from their voyage in Upper Egypt, arrived at Minieh, which is the terminus of the railway from Cairo, on Monday, the 16th ult. There they were met by Charles Bette Bey, in charge of a special train, in readiness to bring them immediately to Cairo; but as some of the boats containing members of the royal suite had been delayed, it was resolved that the whole party should remain over night at Minieh, sleeping in the boats, but dining in a palace belonging to the Viceroy. Leaving Minieh on the Tuesday morning, the party came through by train, but, in accordance with the prince's desire, the train stopped at Gizeh at about 2 p.m. Here Prince Mehmet Tewfik Pasha (Prince Heritier), Cherif Pasha (Minister of the Interior), and other officers of the Government were waiting with carriages in readiness to convey the royal party to the Pyramids. Arrived there, an elegant luncheon was served in the Kiosk erected by the Viceroy this winter, as is believed, expressly in anticipation of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Both the prince and princess entered the Great Pyramid, and the prince mounted to its summit. The princess was anxious to do the same, and was only dissuaded by earnest representations of the possible danger of over-fatigue. Upon one of the stones of the apex the prince carved his initials, which will, no doubt, be pointed out to English travellers by their Arab guides for many years to come. The party returned in carriages across the Nile, upon the bridge of boats, to the palace of the Prince Heritier in Cairo. The hour of return in the evening was somewhat late (about ten o'clock) and the drive rather cold. Mean-

races in honour of the Prince of Wales were held. The day was unfortunately hot, windy, and dusty, with a nasty khamsin blowing, thus giving their royal highnesses an earnest of an Egyptian summer; but the whole programme was performed, the Prince and Princess keeping their places the whole time, with a short interval for lunch, as interested observers of the scene, with heroic endurance of the clouds of dust that from time to time swept over them. Seven races were run, the prizes amounting in all to £1,895, being given by the Viceroy. In the evening, at the palace of Kasr-el-Nil, a special dramatic representation took place in honour of the Princess, about 100 persons being invited. Two short French pieces were selected for representation, and in the interval between them three songs were sung, one of which (a comic one) evidently caused great amusement to the distinguished personages in the audience. At the intervals the Viceroy led the way to an adjoining saloon, where ices and confectionery were served up, and at the end of the performance to one of the grand halls of the palace, where an elegant supper was laid out. Here the Viceroy presented the ladies to the Prince of Wales, one the daughter of an Englishman holding an important position in the management of the English railways, and whom the prince particularly desired might be presented, a young American lady travelling in Egypt with her father, and the wife of one of our leading bankers; the latter lady was also presented to the Princess of Wales. No other presentations were made. Arrangements had been made over night for the prince's departure for Suez on the following day, Sunday, but these were countermanded, and he remained in Cairo till Tuesday, the 23rd, the festival of the Courban Bairam, where he paid an official visit to the Viceroy in full uniform, with all his

soldiers an address. The Prince thanked the deputation on behalf of the Queen, the Princess, and himself, expressing the great pleasure he felt at being able to share with the Princess on this occasion of his second visit the unbounded hospitalities of the Sultan, the Queen's firm ally and friend. To-morrow a state dinner will be given by the Sultan in honour of his royal guests. The foreign ambassadors and the Turkish ministers are invited. On Tuesday a ball will take place at the British Embassy. The Sultan will be present. On Wednesday their royal highnesses and the Sultan will visit the opera in state. The Prince and Princess will leave to-morrow week for the Crimea, returning to Constantinople on the following Friday, then to proceed immediately to Greece.

ODESSA, APRIL 4.—It is doubtful whether the Prince and the Princess of Wales will pay a visit to Odessa. Their royal highnesses will probably proceed direct to Sebastopol and thence to the Caucasus. At Sebastopol great preparations for a magnificent reception are being made in anticipation of the arrival of their royal highnesses.

CONSTANTINOPLE, APRIL 5.—Yesterday the Prince and Princess of Wales attended Divine service at the chapel of the British Embassy, lunched at the Embassy, and afterwards paid a visit to the English cemetery at Scutari. To-day their royal highnesses visited the bazaars and other curious sights of Stamboul. For to-morrow the Prince and Princess have accepted Fazil Mustapha Pacha's invitation to luncheon, and in the evening there will be a gala ball at the British Embassy, at which the Sultan will be present. Sir Andrew Buchanan, the English ambassador at St. Petersburg, and Lady Buchanan, have arrived here to accompany the Prince of Wales on his visit to the Crimea.



ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

while the Viceroy hastened his return from the Isthmus where he had been since Sunday, and arrived in Cairo on the afternoon of Thursday, the 18th. His highness at once called on their royal highnesses and invited them to attend a State dinner at his beautiful palace of Ghezireh the next day (Friday), and the invitation was accepted. From the necessary brevity of the time, the personages honoured with invitations received them in many cases but a few hours before the dinner, and in some instances too late to allow attendance, which accounted for the absence of some of the consular body. Forty-eight persons were present at this banquet. It took place in the richly ornamented Kiosk, which is situated in the garden of the palace of Ghezireh. The Viceroy received his guests in the east wing of the Kiosk. Besides the Princess of Wales, the ladies present were the Hon. Mrs. Grey, Mrs. Colonel Stanton, Mrs. Thermin (wife of the Prussian agent and Consul-General), Mrs. M'Lean, and Miss M'Lean. The gentlemen present were the different consuls-general, the Ministers of the Egyptian Cabinet, and the suite of the Prince of Wales. The Viceroy himself presented the several consuls-general to the Prince and Princess of Wales, whom—all except the Danish Consul-General, who was presented to their royal highnesses on board the Ariadne, on their arrival at Alexandria—they now met for the first time during this visit of the Prince to Egypt. The Viceroy and his guests then proceeded across the open court of the Kiosk (where were illuminated fountains) to the dining-hall in the west wing. After dinner the shrubberies of the garden were illuminated with coloured lights, and fireworks were displayed. The Prince and Princess expressed themselves in cordial terms of admiration at the beauty of the scene. The company retired at about ten o'clock, the Viceroy attending the theatre the same evening. The next day the special

staff. The next day, Wednesday, the 24th, the prince and princess left for Suez at 1 p.m., where they arrived at 6.50 p.m., and put up at the Suez Hotel. Their royal highnesses met with a very cordial welcome from the British residents, headed by Mr. West, British Vice-Consul. The prince visited the docks the next morning, the 25th, and started for Chalouf, on the Suez Canal, at 11.50 a.m. On Friday, the 26th, at 8 p.m., the prince, princess, and suite left Port Said, on board the Viceroy's yacht Mahroussa (meaning "the guarded," i.e., guarded by God, safe from all danger).

The following telegrams show the latest movements of their royal highnesses:

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 1.—The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived here this morning in the Ariadne, accompanied by the Psyche. The Caradoc, the Sultan's yacht, and nine other steamers had gone outside the port, with the British residents on board, to welcome their royal highnesses. The Foreign Minister and the Sultan's Grand Chamberlain went aboard the Ariadne, and all landed in the Sultan's Barca at the salibazar-palace, the usual salute being fired. The royal party were preceded by a guard of honour and the Sultan's band. All the foreign steamers in the port were dressed out with flags.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 2.—The Sultan went in great state to the Mosque of St. Sophia to-day. The Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by the Honourable Mrs. Grey, Lord Carington, Mr. Alison, Mr. Russel, and Mr. Lionel Moore, Second Secretary at the British Embassy, and especially attached to his royal highness during the present stay in this capital, witnessed the procession from the Sultan's Kiosk. Their royal highnesses subsequently received a deputation of all classes of British residents in Constantinople, who pre-

Policeman CHAS. WAITE, 32, Hester-lane, Smithfield, says, Dec. 18, 1868: "Last June, my left knee swelled and pained me, so I could not use it. My physician treated me for rheumatism, and in three weeks pronounced it cured. But as soon as I went on duty the pain and swelling returned, laying me up nearly four months. I was then advised to try Perry Davis's Pain Killer, and after using it four days was able to go on duty, and have, ever since, been entirely well."

No DIFFICULTY YET.—"I am very much pleased with the sewing machine, and find it most easy and pleasant to work. The instructions are so explicit, I have had no difficulty yet." —Mrs. BRUCE, Blackheath, Kent, Dec. 1st, 1868. To the Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine Co.

The Silent Sewing Machine is the only practicable one for family use, being the only one so simple, well made, and reliable, that it can be used by any one, will last a generation without repair, and be always in order. Sewing Machines by other makers taken in exchange at their market value. Book (96 pages) free. Machines carriage paid. Address the Company at 135 Regent-street, and 150 Cheapside, London.

SCIENCE AND ART.—A striking instance of the immense value a small piece of steel may acquire by the great power of skilled mechanical labour is the balance-spring of a watch. From its extreme fineness and delicacy 4,000 weigh not more than one ounce, and exceed in value £1,000. A most interesting little work, describing the rise and progress of watchmaking, has been published by J. W. Benson, 25, Old Bond-street, and the City Steam Factory, 58 and 60, Ludgate-hill. The book, which is profusely illustrated, gives a full description of the various kinds of watches and clocks, with their prices. Mr. Benson (who holds the appointment to the Prince of Wales) has also published a pamphlet on Artistic Gold Jewellery, illustrated with the most beautiful designs of Bracelets, Brooches, Earrings, Lockets, &c., &c., suitable for Wedding, Birthday, and other presents. These pamphlets are sent post free for two stamps each, and they cannot be too strongly recommended to those contemplating a purchase, especially to residents in the country or abroad, who are thus enabled to select any article they may require, and have it forwarded with perfect safety.

BABY FARMING EXTRAORDINARY AT BOW.

An extraordinary case of baby farming was exposed in a coroner's investigation last week at the Lord Campbell Tavern, Campbell-road, Bow, respecting the death of Frederick Wood, aged two years and three months.

The proceedings excited considerable attention in the neighbourhood, as it was known that out of eleven children that had been taken at the "baby farm" five had died. Miss Annie Wood, 4, Queen's-street, Hoxton, said the deceased was a sickly child, and ten months ago witness took it to Mrs. Caroline Savill, of 24, Swayton-road, Bow. She paid 4s. 6d. a week to take care of the child. She thought her child was thoroughly attended to. The deceased met with an accident, and its thigh was broken, but the doctor said the child was getting on very well.

Mrs. C. Savill, 24, Swayton-road, Bow, said she was the wife of an "agricultural manufacturer's porter" in the city. The deceased had been with her ten months. She put it to bed at 9 o'clock on Saturday night, and at half-past 8 o'clock on Sunday morning witness found that it was dead. When witness was taking the deceased up to bed last October she slipped on the stairs and fell upon the child. She had 11 children to keep at Bow. They were all babies. She kept one baby out of charity. She was not paid for him. Five of the eleven babies died. There were no inquests held.

A Juror.—Is your house a baby farm? Witness.—I leave that to the generosity of the jury. By a Juror.—The deceased was lying in an egg box, with a little straw for a bed. The egg box was a short one, and was 16in. wide. The child could not turn in it. By a juror.—Witness never tied the child's legs together. She never discovered that the child's thigh was broken until the morning she fell upon it. He cried, but she put him to bed. A Juror.—You call yourself a nurse; you break the child's thigh and put him to bed, and never find out that the thigh was broken until the next day.

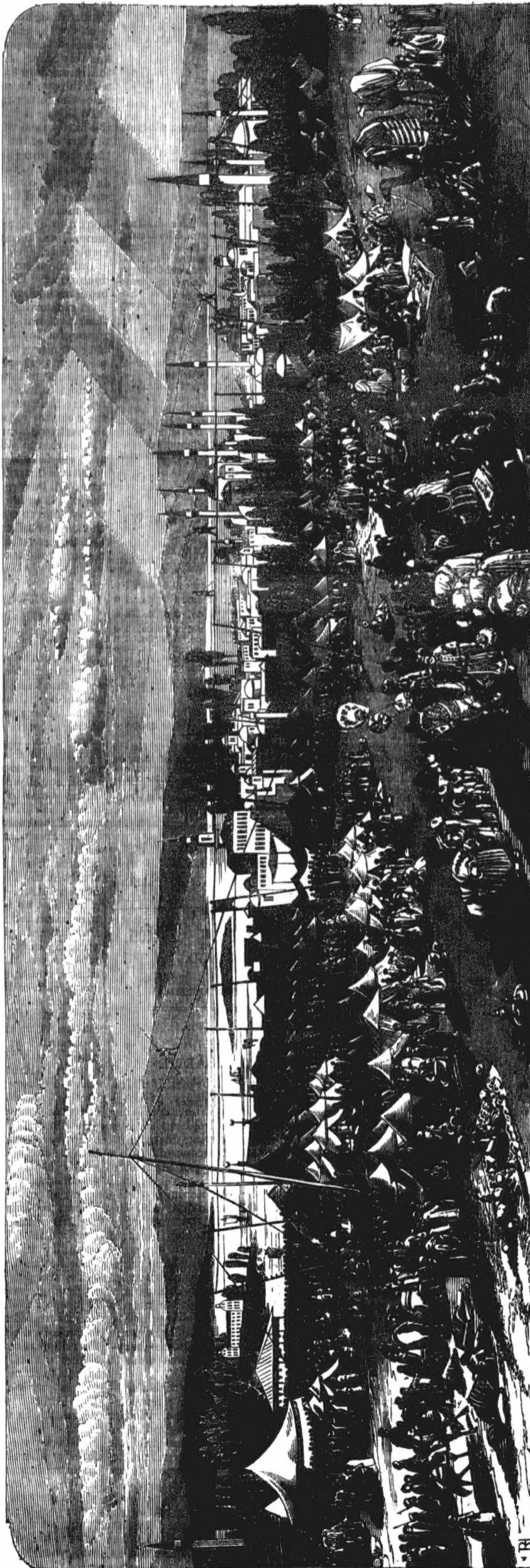
The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes," and they wished to append a censure upon Mrs. Savill; but the coroner refused to record it.

THE GREAT FRAUD IN THE CITY OF £50,000.

LAST week the startling announcement was made that a robbery of £50,000 had been discovered, and subsequently a warrant was issued by one of the City magistrates for the apprehension of Benjamin Higgs, lately a clerk in the employment of the Great Central Gas Company, in Coleman-street, on the charge. A reward of £200 has been offered—£100 to any person who will give such information as shall lead to his apprehension, and a further sum of £100 on recovery of the moneys embezzled.

The following particulars of his career have been published in the *Twickenham Observer* of Saturday last, his residence being Side End House, Teddington:—"His salary at the time of his disappearance was under £400 per annum. His establishment at Teddington, however, was of almost princely character. Mr. Higgs's habits were luxurious and extravagant in the extreme. The house, which contained about thirty rooms, was fitted and furnished in the most sumptuous style. A large pleasure ground ran down to the River Thames, where he had built a massive river wall. He had also a large kitchen garden and a model farm. He was building extensive stabling, fitted with all modern appliances, kept two pairs of carriages, nine horses, and several ponies, and his family carriage and brougham were the most substantial and elegant in the neighbourhood.

The domestic arrangements were in keeping with the general character of the establishment. There were eight female servants, five gardeners, one groom, a coachman, and under coachman, the household expenses requiring not less than £2,000 a year. The furniture, the sale of which took place on Monday and Tuesday last, was of remarkable style and quality, as may be judged from the fact that a piano forte sold for 155 guineas which originally cost 300 guineas, but this was regarded as the greatest bargain of the sale. Mr. Higgs's personal tastes and habits were not less extravagant; his gold watch and diamond rings were the envy of the connoisseurs. He was musical too, and his weekly musical parties were graced by the presence of our most celebrated artists, who were sumptuously entertained and sent to London by special train. Mr. Higgs's benevolent instincts were as large as his expenditure was liberal, not to say extravagant. On three occasions he gave concerts at th



FETES AT CONSTANTINOPLE IN CELEBRATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.—(SEE PAGE 1076.)

Clarence Hotel, Teddington; the most celebrated professional singers were engaged, the programmes were marvels of artistic beauty, the expenses were paid by Mr. Higgs, and the entire proceeds were devoted to the building of new schools. On one occasion an insolvent received a cheque for £180, with which he effected a composition with his creditors. On another occasion an unfortunate man who was seriously injured by an explosion of the kitchen boiler while at his house, was established in business with £300. The Free Church of England at Teddington, which, however, Mr. Higgs never attended, received a new organ at a cost of £300, and the same congregation, now meeting in an iron church, recently rejoiced in the promise of £2,000 towards a new and more substantial structure, which promise, however, "like the baseless fabric of a vision" has vanished with Mr. Higgs.

On the morning of his "departure" there were 80 men employed upon a new mansion which was in course of erection upon land he was to have purchased at a cost of £600 per acre; the purchase, however, was never completed, although the buildings were in progress. The mansion was estimated to cost £50,000. The contract for the brick and stone work was £12,500, and the contractors' sheds and out-buildings actually erected upon the ground cost £500. The freeholder was informed on the Tuesday before Mr. Higgs's departure that there would be some difficulty and delay in the purchase and completion of the freehold, in consequence of Higgs's wife's trustees having failed to meet their engagements. It should be observed that he accounted to his wife and friends for this extraordinary expenditure by saying that he had received a legacy of £90,000 from a relative. There is one side to this extraordinary story which is indescribably painful. Mr. Higgs has left behind him a wife and eight children (probably by this time nine), who until now were ignorant of the source whence all the comforts and luxuries of their home were derived, and therefore innocent of all participation in the fraud, and, we are sorry to add, are rendered absolutely destitute and dependent on others.

IMMENSE INCREASE IN EMIGRATION.—The Government emigration officials at Liverpool have issued their usual monthly and quarterly returns of the emigration from that port. The report shows a large increase when compared with the corresponding month of last year, and one singular fact is noticeable—that the number of English emigrants is far greater than that of previous years. During the past month there sailed to the United States 12,388 passengers, of whom 4,807 were English, 657 Scotch, 2,759 Irish, and 4,024 foreigners. These passengers sailed in vessels leaving Liverpool "under the Act." The number of ships leaving the Mersey with passengers "not under the Act," were—to the United States, one with 80 passengers; three to Victoria, with 85 passengers; one to New Brunswick, with 16 passengers; one to Newfoundland, with 6 passengers; five to South America, with 68 passengers; four to Africa, with 33 passengers; and one to the West Indies, with four passengers—making a total for the whole month of emigration both under and not under the Act, of 12,620 passengers, the number for the corresponding month of last year being 7,240. The emigration for the quarter ending March exceeded by 5,310 passengers the number of last year. During the past quarter there left Liverpool 19,268 passengers—cabin and steerage—under the Act, whilst not under the Act there were, including cabin and steerage, 1,521. The total emigration for the quarter was 20,789, which, when compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, shows an increase—hitherto unprecedented for the season—of 5,310. The facilities now afforded by the Inman, Cunard, and Guion lines of steamers at Queenstown for Irish emigrants has greatly reduced the number which at one time left Liverpool.

The Northern Post, organ of the Russian Minister of the Interior, says that the consumption of alcoholic drinks in the empire has increased since 1863 by 101 per cent. The number of persons who died from drunkenness in Russia last year was 2,748, being at the rate of seven a day. In a single government—that of Riazan—the deaths from this cause have risen from 17 in 1854 to 117 in 1864. At Moscow, according to statistics furnished by the director of police, the number of persons arrested for drunkenness (including women) was 7,224 in 1842, and 21,794 in 1863.

The working men of Lancashire have resolved to raise £5,000 for the widow and family of the late Mr. Ernest Jones.

THEATRES.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Managers, Messrs. Gye and Mapleton.

To-night April 10, Donizetti's opera, LINDA DI CHAMOUNI, Carlo, Signer Naudin; Antonio, Mr. Bentley; Il Prefetto, Signor Bagatolo; Il Marchese, Signor Ciampi; Pierotto, Malle, Sciolchi; and Linda, Mdlle. Ilma di Marzata (who will introduce in the finale Puccini's Air and Variations). Conductor Signor Li Calesi.

Extra Night.—On Monday next, April 12, Meyerbeer's grand Opera, LES HUGUENOTS. On Tuesday next, April 13, Best-hoven's Opera, FIDELIO. Subscription Night in lieu of Saturday, August 7. On Thursday, April 15, Mozart's Opera, IL FLAUTO MAGICO. Commence at half-past eight. Pit tickets, 7s.; amphitheatre stalls, 10s. 6d. and 5s.; amphitheatre, 2s. 6d. Boxes, stalls, and tickets may be had at the box-office, under the portico of the theatre; at the box-office of Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket (which are open from ten till five); and the principal music-sellers' and librarians' offices.

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.

Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. B. Chatterton.

Every evening, at 7, a new drama, THE MAN OF TWO LIVES; Mr. Charles Dillon, Messrs. Ryder, J. Rouse, F. Moreland, Birrell, F. Charles, Wilson Barrett; Madames Heath, Edith Stuart, Hudspeth, and Mrs. Vandenhoff. To conclude with the grand pantomime, PUSS IN BOOTS.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.

Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. B. Buckstone.

Every Evening, at 7, BLUE DEVILS. Messrs. Lowe, Rogers, and Buckstone, junr.; Miss Fanny Wright, actress, which, HOME. Messrs. Sothern, Crippenale; Messrs. Cavendish, Hill, &c. Followed by THE CAPTAIN OF THE WATCH; Messrs. Sothern, Crippenale, Vincent, &c.; Messrs. Cavendish, Hill, &c. Concluding with MAKE YOUR WIVES, Joseph Brag, Mr. Buckstone.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Vining.

Every Evening, at 7, TWICE KILLED. After which, at 8, AFTER DARK, a Tale of London Life; Messrs. Vining, Walter Lacy, Dominick Murray, C. Harcourt, J. G. Shore, Mr. E. Barnett, and Miss Rose Leckford. Concluding with THE SECRET.

THEATRE ROYAL, ADELPHI.

Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. B. Webster.

Every Evening, at 7, A DAY'S FISHING; Mr. G. Belmore. At a quarter to 8, BLACK AND WHITE; Mr. Fechter; Miss Carlotta Leclercq; Mr. Arthur Stirling, Mr. G. Belmore, Mr. Atkins, Mr. R. Phillips, Mr. Stuart; Mrs. Leigh Murray, Miss Lennox Grey, &c. And WHALEBAIT AT GREENWICH. Mr. Atkins; Mrs. Leigh Murray.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Sole Lessee, Mr. B. Webster; Manager, Mr. H. Wiggin.

Every Evening, at 7, CASH VERSUS CUPID; Messrs. H. Vaughan, and J. G. Taylor; Meads. Maria Harris, N. Harris, and Caulfield. At a quarter to eight, THE THIRST OF GOLD; Messrs. H. Nevitt, J. G. Taylor, G. Vincent, H. Vaughan, H. Cooper, C. Gardner, and H. Wiggin; Misses. M. Harris, St. Henry, and Furtado. On Wednesday next Mr. Benjamin Webster, and Mrs. Mellon will appear in MASKS AND FACES.

ROYAL STRAND THEATRE.

Sole Lessee and Manager, Mrs. Swanborough.

Every Evening, at 7, A WIDOW HUNT. Messrs. Clarke, Bettar; Miss E. Button, JOAN OF ARC; Messrs. Thorne, James, Fenton, Turner, Chamberlain; Madames Button, Mulland, Sheridan, Goodall, Newton, Claire, Raymond. Concluding with HUE AND DYE.

ROYALTY THEATRE.

Under the Management of Miss M. Oliver.

Every Evening, at 7.30, IN FOR A HOLIDAY; Mr. Day. At eight, A ROVING COMMISSION; Mr. Dewar, Meads. Rose, Bramley, and Bishop. At 9, CLAUDE DUVAL. Miss Oliver, &c. To conclude with THE BOARDING SCHOOL.

PRINCE OF WALES'S ROYAL THEATRE.

Under the Management of Miss Marie Wilton.

Every Evening, at 8, SCHOOL. Messrs. Hare, Montague, Addison, &c.; Meads. Carlota Addison, Buckingham White and Marie Wilton. Also A WINNING HAZARD, and INTRIGUE. Mr. Montgomery; Misses A. and B. Wilton.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, Long-acre.

Manager, Mr. E. J. Young.

Every Evening, at 7, TRYING IT ON; Mr. Wyndham; Meads. Pitt and Gordon. Followed by Tom Taylor's, Esq., comedy, WON BY A HEAD; Messrs. Buxton, Moore, Rignold, and G. Vincent; Misses. H. Holston, Batrix Shirley, and Mrs. Stirling. To conclude with THE LITTLE REBEL; Mr. Seyton and Miss H. Holston.

GLOBE THEATRE ROYAL.

Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Seton Parry.

Every Evening, at 7, THE HAPPY FAMILY. At 7.45 Mr. Robertson's new comic drama of A BREACH OF PROMISE. 9.40, BROWN AND THE BRAHMINS. Messrs. E. Marshall, Warner, Vernon, Fisher, J. Clarke, &c.; Madames Lydia Foote, Thorne, Henrade, Brennan.

GAELITY THEATRE, STRAND.

Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. John Hollingshead.

Every Evening, at 7, THE TWO HARLEQUINS. Mr. Cralia; Miss C. Losby. At a quarter to 8, DREAMS; Mr. Alfred Wiggin; Miss M. Robertson; Mr. R. Soar, Mr. J. Maclean, Mr. J. Clayton, Mr. J. Eldred; Miss R. Singer, Mrs. Leigh. At 10.15, ROBERT THE DEVIL; Miss E. Farren. Ballet.

ST. GEORGE'S THEATRE, REGENT-STREET.

Every Wednesday and Saturday at 3, every night at 8, ROYAL and ORIGINAL CHRYSY'S MINSTRELS; ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENT; and the Burlesque Extravaganza, THE VERY GRAND DUTCH-S.

NEW NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.

Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Douglas.

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Every evening, at 7.30, OSCAR CARRE'S PERFORMING HORSES. The wonderful Salamander horse. The matchless SCENES IN THE ARENA. Including Misses A. Bradbury, Carré, Salomonka, Adolphe Carré, and Maitre Montero, Salomonka, Amalia, Schwartz, and Krombein.

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CRYSTAL PALACE.—Miscellaneous Entertainment. Open at Ten ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Christy's Minstrels. Eight.

PENNY TRAVEL.—Miscellaneous Entertainment, &c. Open from twelve till Five and from Seven till Ten.

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ROYAL ALBANIA.—Miscellaneous Entertainment. Eight.

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1.—FREE.

British Museum; Chelsea Hospital; Courts of Law and Justice; Books; Dulwich Gallery; East India Museum, Fife House, Whitehall; Greenwich Hospital; Hampton Court Palace; Houses of Parliament; Kew Botanic Gardens and Pleasure Grounds; Museum of Economic Geology, Jermyn-street; National Gallery; National Portrait Gallery; Patent Museum, adjoining the South Kensington Museum; Soane's Museum, Lincoln's-inn-fields; Society of Arts' Exhibitions of Inventions (in the spring of every year); St. Paul's Cathedral; Westminster Abbey; Westminster Hall; Windsor Castle; Woolwich Dockyard and Repository.

2.—BY INTRODUCTION.

Antiquarian Society's Museum, Somerset House; Armourers' Museum, 81, Coleman-street; Asiatic Society's Museum, 6, New Burlington-street; Bank of England Museum (collection of coins); Botanical Society's Gardens and Museum, Regent's-park; College of Surgeons' Museum, Lincoln's-inn-fields; Guildhall Museum (old London antiquities); Linnean Society's Museum, Burlington House; Mint (process of coining), Tower-hill; Naval Museum, South Kensington; Royal Institution Museum, Albemarle-street; Trinity House Museum, Tower-hill; United Service Museum, Scotland-yard; Woolwich Arsenal.

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The Illustrated Weekly News
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(REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1869.

THE SHADOW ON THE HEARTH.

WITH the rapidly growing days and bright, if fitful, gleams of sunshine that tell of the victory of rosy-fingered Spring over hoar, gaunt Winter, comes the news of another of those frightful catastrophes that ever and anon occur in our coal mines, carrying death in its most unexpected and hideous form into scores of humble dwellings, and harrowing up the feelings of the nation at large.

In another column we give the sad account of the most recent of these terribly fatal accidents, and the details are but part of the old, old story,—a number of men working in a gaseous seam, the sudden blast of death, leaving for the poor fellows little time to struggle, and none to prepare for the fearful end; and the argument it supplies is an obvious one. The reckless system of allowing the men to work in a partially-vitiated air, which a few feet more of gas would render utterly dangerous, ought to be given up, or to be punished when persisted in by some severe legal penalty, though it is urged by many that in the present instance everything that human ingenuity could devise was done to insure the safety of the men.

Perhaps some day science will provide us with a safeguard, too, altogether different from anything now employed; certainly it is wanted. Safety lamps, whether Davy or Stephenson, give only a comparative protection. Either will ignite gas of a given density, so that no amount of care on the collier's part can prevent an explosion when gas of that strength comes upon them. Besides, in every pit there are places where it is considered safe to use naked lights. These places may be perfectly safe in a normal state of the atmosphere, but may they not become exceedingly dangerous whenever the air becomes so heavy that ventilation is impeded? Electricity has been hinted at as a desideratum. As one writer remarks,

the applications of electricity are manifold, and the beautiful light displayed in exhausted glass tubes by means of the induction-coil seems to point the way to a species of coal-pit illumination which shall be unexceptionably safe. The breaking of such a tube would cause the immediate extinction of light, and any tampering with the apparatus would not only be useless but would place the miner in darkness.

Be this as it may, the least that the nation can do for the hardy race who spend the best part of their lives in the bowels of the earth, delving for the sparkling coal that shall bring light and warmth and comfort to our homes, is it to insist that no mines, known to be in a dangerous condition, shall be worked in doubtful weather; and that sufficient shafts shall be sunk to insure means of exit and ventilation; also that in mines known to be dangerous, as was the case with the Arley mine, less hazardous agencies than shot should be employed.

But these are matters for the future. What can be done now? We cannot give fathers and husbands and brothers back to the broken-hearted creatures who have been clustering round the pit's-mouth in the frenzy of their first burst of grief nor can we recall the "tender grace of a day that will never come back" to them. To Heaven alone they must look for that consolation. But we may, perhaps, by the spontaneous and unaffected expression of heartfelt sympathy, carry a gleam of comfort to their desolated homes; and we can at least resolve that pressing pecuniary cares shall not intrude their canker into their great sorrow, nor crush them, to the earth with augmented bitterness. No, England is not the nation to allow that. The pitiful cry of the widow and the fatherless will not ascend in vain. While the country's heart bleeds for their irreparable loss, its ready hand will be stretched out to help and succour. And in thousands of homes, from the richest to the poorest, for many days to come, when the evening lamps are lighted the shadow of the terrible calamity will fall upon the hearth, and the voice will soften, and the heart will throb, at the remembrance of others' woes.

PRINCE ARTHUR IN IRELAND.

WHILE the visit of another English prince to Ireland is made a subject for wide-spread congratulation and the heart of the Dublin shopkeeper is merry within him on account of the usual routine of balls and festivities inevitable upon such occasions, we readily admit with the Post, that there is a reverse side of the picture which cannot be painted in the rose-colour hues of a royal visit. Every week brings us tidings of fresh agrarian outrages committed by an angry and discontented peasantry; and the horrible intelligence of the assassination of some fresh victim to an ill-feeling which unhappily appears so widely prevalent is invariably followed by an equally alarming statement of the total inability of the police to convict the offenders. We must not blame the Irish constabulary, who have repeatedly proved themselves to be an active and intelligent body, for failures which are in point of fact inherent in the circumstances under which they are placed. The suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act was directed exclusively at the Fenian agitators, and with the extinction of Fenianism—properly so called—it was finally imagined that no further necessity would arise of resorting to so harsh and unusual a measure. But the fact is that these recent agrarian outrages, as they are called, are virtually only a different symptom of the same inveterate disease, that they owe their impunity to the same causes, and that they require the same treatment. The suspension of the Act during the period of the Fenian troubles enabled the police at once to lay hands upon suspected people in cases where there was a considerable amount of moral certainty, but where also the attempt to obtain a legal conviction would at once have been hampered by questions of personal identity, which in the midst of a population almost unanimously sympathising with the accused person, would have presented insuperable obstacles to its success. This is exactly the power which is required now to enable them to arrest the perpetrators of some of the most atrocious murders which have disgraced even the bloody annals of English rule or misrule in Ireland. There are probably now under the very eyes of the police some thirty or forty suspected persons whom they know to have been implicated, either as principals or accessories, in those crimes, but whom, for want of a legal proof which is not forthcoming, they dare not lay a finger on, and who will therefore be suffered to continue their murderous acts with impunity till some unusually stupendous catalogue of atrocities shall awaken the eyes of the Cabinet to a sense of the real position of affairs.

The fact is we are too apt to fall into the fatal mistake of judging Ireland through the medium of English prejudices and English traditions; and if we are not slow to concede a patient and generous attention to her cries for religious and political justice, let us also be quick to perceive that the very circumstance of there being so much to remedy presupposes an exceptional state of things which must require exceptional measures. It is idle to suppose that the mistakes of seven hundred years can be wiped away by the wisdom of a few conciliatory speeches.

Severity has been tried in Ireland, and severity has failed; liberality—liberality to a fault, perhaps—has been tried, and that too has failed. Why not combine the two? Give, and give liberally, those concessions which they can fairly claim to the just demands of the Irish people; but while you concede so much with one hand, let the other restrain with prompt severity the excesses of a set of ruffians whose hearts, if they have any, your legislation can never reach. The time is ripe

for a strong and decided policy. Mr. Gladstone, a Liberal Premier, at the head of the largest majority which has been seen in the present century, need not fear the assaults of any political detractor; and the author of a measure so broad, so wise, and so truly liberal as his Church Bill, cannot be accused of a disposition to resort unadvisedly to tyrannical measures. Sweep away the "alien" Church, restore religious equality—go further, if you like, and modify the laws which adjust the relations between landlord and tenant—but be as strong as you are wise, and fortify the hands of the officers of justice till you can afford to the loyal inhabitants of Ireland some security from acts of personal violence which are a stain and a disgrace to our boasted civilization.

PROSPECT OF CHEAP POSTAGE AT LAST.

MR. GRAVES deserves the thanks of the public for his able speech on Tuesday evening in favour of Cheap Postage. If the reform he advocates is not soon brought about, it will certainly not be through any fault of his or failure in his advocacy, and as the *Times* justly urges, none but the most impenetrable of officials will be disposed to deny that our present postage system needs revision. It is now nearly thirty years since that most beneficial of changes, the Penny Postage, was introduced. The praises of the measure have since been on every tongue. The originator of it obtained a well-earned celebrity, and was rewarded by a public subscription and by a long tenure of office in the Department. Every one has read comparisons between the state of England prior to 1840 and the present time. In the old days letters cost twopence within a very limited metropolitan district, and threepence in the suburbs beyond it, while the rates increased with distance throughout the three kingdoms, so that the tax upon poor people who might be living in parts of the country remote from each other was well-nigh prohibitory. The financial success of the Penny Postage is not less wonderful than the benefits which it has conferred on the nation. The people who never wrote a letter before now write many, and those who wrote occasionally now maintain a large correspondence. There is no necessity to cross and re-cross the paper to save the double postage, for the small cost of delivery, as well as the lighter form in which writing material is made up, allows such carefulness to be abandoned. Private happiness, general education, and all kinds of mercantile business have been promoted by an expedient so simple that when once adopted we are disposed to wonder how our fathers could have lived without it.

Yet it is asserted with what looks like truth, that having accepted the principle of cheap postage, the English people have been slow in giving it its due development. A penny was the price of delivery fixed in 1839 and a penny it still remains. That is, because a penny was the charge fixed for an ordinary letter in days when the Post was hardly used at all for the conveyance of printed matter except a few newspapers, therefore the smallest coin for which the Government will carry any communication, written or printed, is still a penny. It is true that this penny covers, in the case of the Book Post, a considerable weight; but the benefit the public receives in this way is small in comparison with what would follow a diminution in the rate of Postage, for naturally most of the printed communications are not bulky. It would seem that, while we have been taking credit to ourselves as the originators of Cheap Postage, we have allowed the reform to stand still, and have been outstripped by other nations which borrowed the principle from ourselves. The Post Office is, no doubt, a model of administration, and on the whole the service is excellently performed. But every office has its traditions and its prejudices, and one which seems to cling to St. Martin's-le-Grand is that the only person who has a claim on the zeal of the department is the *long-fide* letter-writer. There has always been a manifest unwillingness to recognise the right of printed matter to an equality of position. The concessions in this respect have been almost extorted by the public. Books and pamphlets were long an abomination to the authorities, and even newspapers have been looked upon with an evil eye. The consequence is that, as Mr. Graves and Mr. Mundella inform us, England, instead of being in the van of postal progress, has fallen into the rear. The fact stated by these gentlemen are worthy of the most serious consideration. Foreign countries give special facilities for the circulation of printed matter, whether in the shape of newspapers, literary magazines, or circulars of every kind. The postage of a circular in France costs one centime, in Italy two centimes, in Spain less than a farthing. The postage on newspapers is equally low. In France one-fifth of a penny carries a letter even into Algeria. In Tuscany, the Netherlands, Brazil, Portugal the charge is only one-fourth of a penny, while in Switzerland it is one-third of a penny. Many other instances equally remarkable could be produced. There are few English travellers in the United States who have failed to observe not only the number of newspapers, but also their wide diffusion. In a moderately-sized town of one State you will find at any public room papers from every other State, many of them published at places of no great importance. The cause of this is the special facility which the Government gives for the transmission of printed matter. Newspapers are taken at the lowest possible rates, and within certain distances a number of them are carried gratis. Small publications, such as magazines and serials, have similar advantages. If this can be done over an immense territory where, notwithstanding the enterprise of the people, the means of communication are still in a rude state, how much better can it be done in these small

and thickly-populated islands, where there is hardly a village which cannot be reached in two or three hours from a neighbouring railway station?

RAILWAY HINDRANCES AND FACILITIES.

In our last number we inserted under this heading the letter of a correspondent who drew attention in temperate, but unmistakable terms, to the serious inconveniences, to employ a very mild word for so pressing and unnecessary an evil, to which a very large class of suburban residents are put by the senseless way in which the trains on several lines of rail, but notably on the Great Northern, are timed for Sundays and such national holidays as Good Friday and Christmas; and as we have not yet been able to detect any signs of amendment, we would again press the matter in the interests of many thousands on the attention of the companies. Surely because trains are not to be run during church time, it is not necessary to stop all but one, or at the most two, during the only day that tens of thousands have for seeing their friends, and start it or them at so unreasonably early an hour, that to most persons they are practically useless, and might just as well therefore not be run at all. We feel sure that were there two or three extra trains put on both for the mornings and afternoons of Sundays, they would be found to pay immensely better than the miserable makeshifts at present in vogue, without entailing much extra work on the railway servants, and would thus answer the purpose of the companies while proving an immense boon to the public. When will railway directors condescend to the exercise of a little common sense and show that they really understand their business?

PARLIAMENTARY

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords reassembled on Monday last after the Easter recess.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE laid a bill upon the table relating to the Tenure of Land in Ireland, the provisions of which are identical with those of the measure introduced by the noble lord last session.

The Duke of SOMERSET having put a question to the Foreign Secretary with regard to the proceedings of missionaries and English gunboats in the island of Formosa, Lord CLARENCE replied that despatches had reached the Admiralty from the naval officers engaged and the acting consul, and that the opinion of the Government was unfavourable to the latter. The operations had no doubt been conducted in a manner that reflected credit on their skill and gallantry; but those operations ought never to have been undertaken. As to the vice-consul, his conduct had been so highly reprehensible that he had been recalled in a despatch, which, it was to be hoped, would exercise a salutary effect upon the whole consular service, and be a warning to them against wantonly undertaking military operations without the sanction of the Government. He trusted also that hereafter missionaries would refrain from going into the interior of China or establishing themselves in places where they could not be easily protected. Undaunted courage and zeal had been displayed by them on frequent occasions, but he feared that sometimes they allowed their zeal to outrun their discretion, and he was glad to say that the London Missionary Society disclaimed all connection with the proceedings at Formosa.

Relying to an inquiry of Lord Chelmsford, the Lord CHANCELLOR stated that he could not hold out any expectation of being able to introduce, in the present session, bill founded upon the report of the Marriage Law Commission.

On Tuesday evening the House of Lords met for an hour and a quarter, but the business transacted was altogether of a routine character, and consisted of the consideration of the report of amendments to the Habitual Criminals Bill, and the reading of Lord Napier's Salary Bill and the Mutiny Bills a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Commons reassembled on Thursday, last week, after the brief Easter recess.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved an address to the Crown for a Royal Commission to inquire into the existence of corrupt practices at the late election for the city of Norwich. The hon. and learned gentleman reminded the House that the borough was an old offender, having been reported against in 1837 and in 1859. His object was to find out who supplied the money (at a critical moment of the contest) for bribing the most venal portion of the constituency, and this he believed could only be ascertained by a rigid examination on the spot of all the circumstances attending the election.

On the motion of Mr. GOSCHEN the Valuation of Property (Metropolis) Bill was read a second time, on the understanding that the House, in agreeing to the stage, sanctioned only the principle of the equalisation of assessment, and did not stand committed to any of the details of the measure.

The select committee on Endowed Schools was appointed.

On the Friday, Major Walker took his seat for Dumfries-shire, in the room of Sir S. H. Waterlow, reported by a select committee to be disqualified.

Mr. W. H. GREGORY gave notice that, on the 13th inst., he intended to submit a resolution to the effect that it was desirable to open our public galleries and museums on Sundays after divine service.

In answer to Mr. Palmer.

Mr. BRIGHT stated that the Board of Trade had sanctioned the use of a rope "carried outside the carriage" as a means of communication between railway passengers and guards, and that they hoped it would answer all the purposes required.

Mr. CHILDERS moved a vote of £168,704 for the Admiralty office, which enabled Mr. CORRY (late First Lord) to criticise the economic changes effected in the constitution and administration of the Naval Department of the Government. Whilst animadverting upon details, however, the right hon. gentleman expressed his anxiety that the new system should have a fair trial.

Lord H. LENNOX also availed himself of the opportunity to complain of the hardship inflicted upon the clerks who, under these changes, had been discharged from their situations with a paltry compensation.

Mr. CHILDERS defended the recent retrenchments in his department, urging that there had been no sacrifice of efficiency in the public service, and that the reduction in the staff had been carried out with due regard to the claims of individuals.

On Monday, the second reading of the Bankruptcy Bill was preceded by a discussion, in the course of which the legal members of the House took a prominent part. Mr. JESSEL, while generally supporting the measure, pointed out what provisions were, in his opinion, susceptible of improvement, and expressed his opinion that to make the future property of a bankrupt liable until he paid his just debts would be not only sound in morals, but would be consistent with the practice of every other civilised country but our own. Mr. G. B. GREGORY, Mr. SERJEANT SIMON, Mr. A. S. HILL, Mr. H. PALMER, and Sir F. GOLDSMID subsequently criticised the measure; while expression was given to the opinions of the commercial world by Mr. MORLEY, Mr. PEAK, Mr. LUSK, and others.

On Tuesday, Captain ARCHIBALD gave notice that on the motion for the third reading of the Irish Church Bill he should move that it be extended to England and Scotland. This announcement was received with ironical cheers and laughter.

Mr. GRAVES called attention to the rates of inland postage charged on printed matter, which he contrasted with those in operation in America, France, Italy, Greece, Belgium, and other countries, contending that the English scale was higher than that of any other civilised State. He had obtained information on the subject in respect to 25 countries, and he found that the postage for printed matter varied from one-thirteenth of a penny (the lowest) to three-fourths of a penny (the highest), urging that the charge in the United Kingdom was exorbitant—that it checked the circulation of newspapers and other useful publications, and seriously affected the revenue by transferring work that ought to be done by the Post-office to private enterprise. He moved a resolution declaring the expediency of reducing the rate to one halfpenny for two ounces, and on newspapers to the same amount.

The motion was seconded by Mr. MUNDELLA, who stated that a constituent of his own, having 400 trade circulars to deliver, sent them from Sheffield to be posted in Paris. This operation he effected at a cost of 3s. 3d., whereas, had he posted them in the ordinary way at Sheffield, they would have cost £5.

Mr. MACFIE warmly supported, and Mr. C. BUXTON opposed the motion.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON pointed out the inconvenience of pledging the House to any proposition which might effect the financial arrangements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be so soon laid before the House. The immediate result of reducing the duty on newspapers and printed matter to a halfpenny would entail a loss of £383,000 upon the revenue. This might of course be recovered in course of time; but the proposed change would, he feared, materially interfere with the present arrangements for the rapid and punctual transmission of letters. He promised, however, that the subject should be "thoroughly looked into."

Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN moved "That, in the opinion of this House, the duty on fire insurances should be, at the earliest opportunity, reduced to 6d. per cent. in place of the duty of 1s. 6d. per cent. now charged. That such a reduction would have a tendency to improve the revenue by inducing the insurance of property now uninsured." The hon. gentleman said he did not wish to interfere with any financial arrangements which the Chancellor of the Exchequer might have already made for the current year.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER declined within 48 hours of the time when it would become his duty to make the annual financial statement to enter upon the discussion of fire insurance duty.

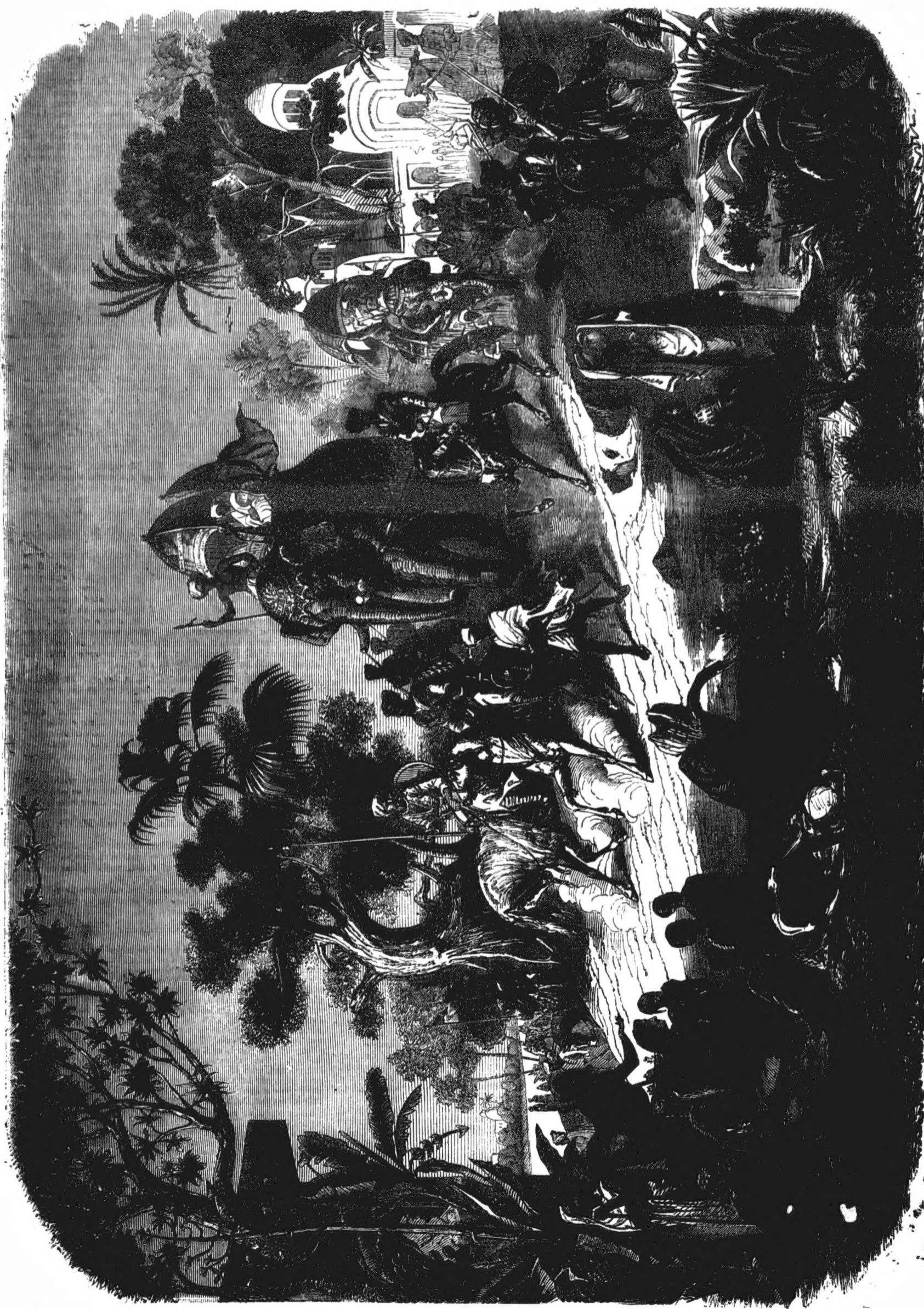
After a few words from Mr. CROSS and Mr. D. DALRYMPLE,

Mr. GLADSTONE moved the adjournment of the debate for a week, in order that the question might be discussed by the House with a full knowledge of the financial plans of the Government.

Mr. SHERIDAN having expressed his readiness to fall in with this suggestion, the debate was accordingly adjourned until Tuesday next.

STEALING LEAD.—At the Marylebone police-court on Monday four young men were examined and remanded for a week on a charge of stealing lead from some houses in Kentish-town which are under repair. The principal witness against them was a young woman named Ward, the sweetheart of one of the prisoners, with whom she had quarrelled, and out of revenge given information about the robbery. On leaving the court a young woman named Jarvis threatened to stab her; and, accompanied by four companions, repeated the threat in the Kentish Town-road whilst she was on her way home. The police at last had to protect the young woman Ward, and see her home as she was completely mobbed. This morning Jarvis was brought before Mr. D'Eyncourt, who ordered her to find one surety of £10 to be of good behaviour for the next three months; and said that if any other person threatened the witness Ward they would be bound over for six months, and if any after that for twelve months.

BEGINNING AT THE WRONG END.—Lord Henry Lennox has earned the gratitude of all junior clerks in the Civil Service who happen to be trembling for their appointments. He has pleaded their cause in moderate but at the same time very earnest language. It is, no doubt, hard that when a young man has taken great pains to get into the Civil Service, under the belief that a career is secured to him, he should be suddenly discharged without fault of his own. That is what happened recently to seven or eight gentlemen at the Admiralty. Yet some new offices of a minor sort were created—notably one worth £500 a year. The recipient of this is described by Sir J. Elphinstone to be fit only for the post of "Assistant Inspector of Mares' Nests," and Mr. Gladstone's answer is that if Mr. Childers has not made a proper selection he ought himself to retire from office. This is rather inconclusive, and possibly Mr. Childers did not feel very much indebted to his chief for his help. It is quite right to reduce taxes, but how much was saved by the discharge of the clerk referred to by Lord Henry Lennox—especially if we set off against his salary Mr. Fellowes's allowance of £500 a year? The constructor of the navy "benefits to the extent of £200 a year by the abolition of the clerkships," a professional secretary receives £500, and two other gentlemen receive £100 a year extra for assisting him. The little fish have been swallowed by the big ones.



SHAH AMEER AND AFGHAN CHIEFTAINS PROCEEDING TO THE INTERVIEW WITH LORD MAYO.—(SEE PAGE 1065.)

Our Baby:

A BACHELOR'S EXPERIENCE WITH IT.
BY AN AMERICAN.

It was a very pretty little baby—that is, for a baby. I had no fault to find with it as far as its individual identity was concerned. If babies must exist—and I suppose there is a necessity for the thing, or else where would all the grown people come from?—this baby was as well in its way as any other baby.

I mention these facts merely to prove that I am in no way prejudiced. As far as mortal man can be, I am an entirely impartial witness.

It was fast asleep in its cradle—a little white-headed doll, with long, dark eyelashes, and a crimson dot of a mouth, against which lay its tiny fist, with five well-defined dimples in the five joints thereof. It was fast asleep, I say, when Bertha came airily into the room.

"I am going over to the depot to see mother off, Joseph; I'll be back in half an hour. Just keep an eye to baby while I'm gone, will you?"

I looked blankly at my sister. But while I was considering how best to express my total dissent from her audacious proposition, she tripped out of the room, her ribbons fluttering in the soft spring air.

Silence does not always give consent, but Bertha had taken it for granted in this matter, and I was left an unwilling guardian of my little nephew.

However, he was fast asleep, that was one circumstance in my favour. Mortal baby couldn't present a more innocent and cherubic aspect than he did. So I calmly went on with my writing, soon becoming oblivious to his infantile presence.

"Talk about tending babies," quoth I to myself, dipping my goosequill triumphantly into the ink, "why it's the easiest business in life. I should never spend my money hiring nurses, if that little one was mine—but women never do know how to economise properly."

These fancies passed through my mind, the baby woke up and sneezed.

I gave the cradle an oscillatory kick, and then burst forth into the well-known burden of "Bye a baby bunting," but the little villain absolutely declined to shut his eyes again like a sensible baby. He opened them wider than two miniature moons, stared at me with an air of malevolence that has made me a firm believer in human depravity ever since, and deliberately began to cry. And the harder I rocked the cradle and the louder I sang, the more resolutely did that baby cry.

"He's hungry," thought I to myself. "Babies must be fed, and it's highly reprehensible of Bertha to stay away so long."

So I went down into the pantry and instituted a search for some milk, which I had a vague idea was the diet generally preferred by toothless infancy. But milk there was none. Lamp oil; Stewart's syrup; vinegar; kerosene; brandy; everything but milk was there; every known or conceivable fluid, in aggravating profusion—but not a drop of milk.

All this time meanwhile, the roars of my infuriated nephew but slightly softened by distance, followed me about like a Nemesis.

I rushed frantically upstairs, armed with a lump of sugar, the first soothing expedient that suggested itself to me.

"Bless its dear little heart, there, there; confound your racket, can't you keep still! Take its sugar from its own, own uncle, that's a little golden boy."

But the golden boy resolutely rejected the sugar, screaming louder than ever, as if its lungs were forty baby-power, and warranted never to tire out. It kicked, it struggled, it pawed the air, it grew purple in the face. Aches of King Herod and all the Egyptians; what was a man to do?

In vain I executed a war dance around its cradle, in vain I rang the dinner-bell, and jingled the china ornaments, and waved the feather duster, and swung my gold repeater, and bawled nursery ballads at the top of my lungs. Talk about perseverance. Robert Bruce's spider was nothing to that atrocious little lump of mortality.

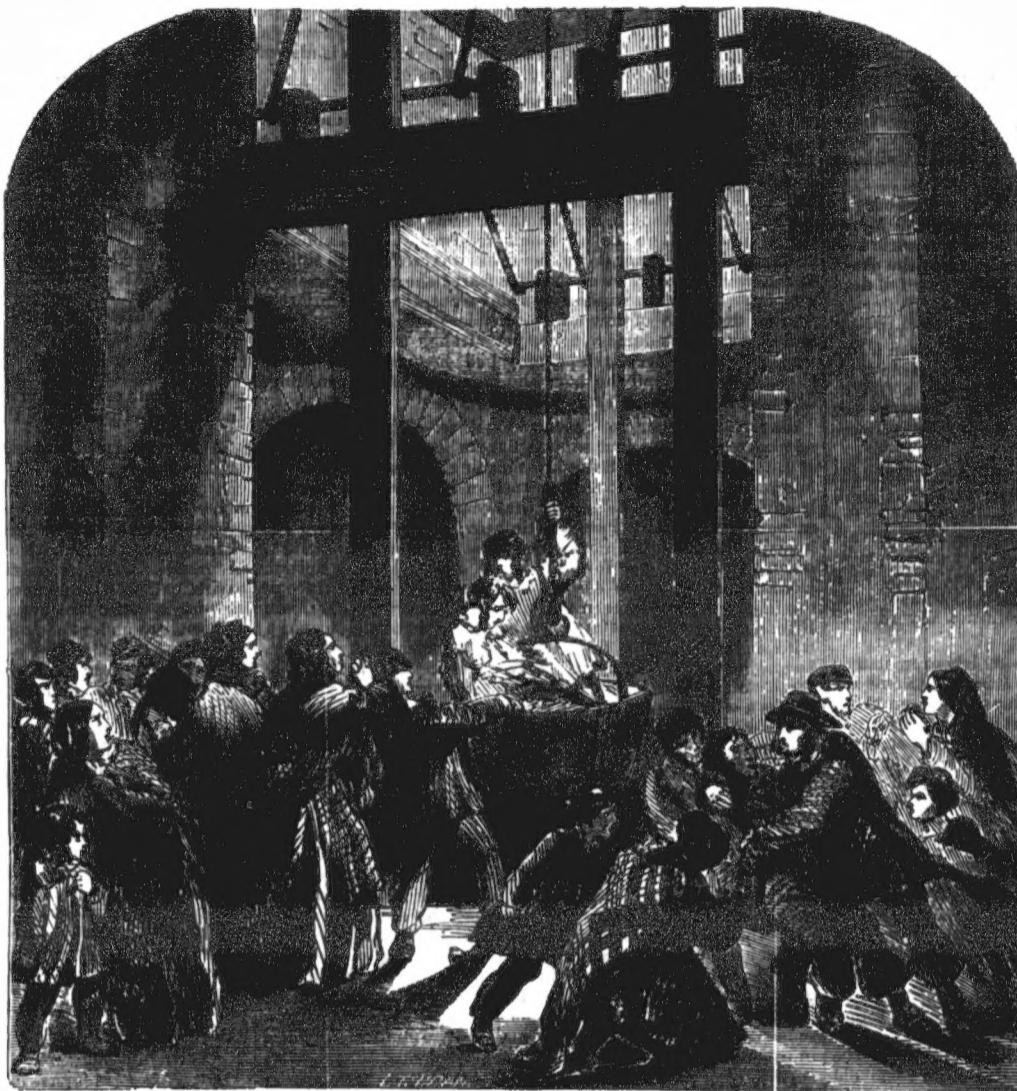
"There's nothing for it but to capitulate," said I to myself, as I jammed my hat on my head, viciously thrust my arms into my overcoat, and seized the baby out of its cradle.

Leave it absolutely alone I dared not, and the nearest grocery where milk was procurable lay full three blocks off! Thus, in a sort of stony despair, I issued forth from the house, carrying my persecutor like a bundle under one arm.

I thought he would stop crying when he got into the open air, but not he; oxygen only seemed to increase the shrill power of his marvellous little pipes! People turned to stare at me, as if I were an escaped lunatic, or an abductor of infant innocence. Women looked indignantly at the baby. Blue worsted socks and little pink legs kicking blindly from beneath my arms. Children ran after me, dogs barked, but I kept doggedly on my way, walking into the grocery with a resolution second only to that of the Roman fellow who jumped into a crater, nobody knows how many hundred years ago!

"A pint of milk, if you please."

"Milk, sir? Have you brought anything to put it in?"



THE COLLIERY EXPLOSION AT WIGAN—RECOVERING THE SUFFERERS.—(SEE FIRST PAGE.)

I thought of my tobacco-box, my pocket-handkerchief, the corner of my hat, all of these impracticable places for the deposit of the lacteal fluid.

"I never thought of that!" I said, righting the baby, who came head uppermost with a very crimson countenance, and eyes looking defiantly into mine; eyes that said as if they had spoken in so many syllables—

"I won't stop crying! I'll die first!"

The storekeeper looked on sympathetically.

"I could sell you a nice lit—pitcher, sir, if—"

"The very idea," I interrupted. "A pitcher of milk! and please take the change out of this portemonnaie, for if I had three pair of hands I couldn't more than hold this kicking little sprite with 'em!"

"Well, sir," said the storekeeper, "he does seem a rare'un for using his legs, let alone his lungs. Yes, sir, thank'ee, sir!"

"Now, I have always since laid it up a grudge against human nature that that unprincipled grocery-man took a five-dollar bill out of my portemonnaie, knowing that I should not discover it until too late to rectify the error!

(I wouldn't have treated a Turk so!)

I took up the pitcher of milk with my right hand, still balancing the baby skilfully against my left arm and side, and started triumphantly for home.

"Now I'll settle your business, my fine young friend!" I thought. "Is it possible that I was ever such an incorrigible nuisance as this?"

But my triumph was speedily reduced to the lowest pitch of humiliation.

"Dear me, Mr. Beverley, is it possible that this is you?"

It was Kate Milton's self, radiant in spring bonnet, lilac silk walking-dress, close-fringed parasol, and the daintiest of lilac kid gloves! Kate Milton, with an air of astonishment that served to make her one degree prettier than ever.

My first instinct was to turn and flee ignominiously; my second was to drop my nephew and his milk into the gutter, and resolutely deny all connection whatever with them; my third prompted me resolutely to stand my ground.

"Yes, it is I, Miss Milton—a fine day!"

"Very fine."

Kate eyed me dubiously, and no wonder. One sock, curling and twisting as if a serpent were inside of it instead of a baby's foot, appeared beneath my coat-skirts, flanked by about a quarter of a yard of Swiss embroidery and tucks, wofully crumpled by the fiery ordeal through which we had both passed—the milk (confound it!) had dripped down the full length of my pearl-coloured pantaloons, and my hat, bent and bruised, was thrust vulgarly on the side of my head. I was gloveless, flushed, and dishevelled, and, take me for all in all, must have appeared considerably like a pickpocket, or an old-clothes man out for a walk!

I passed on, followed by the sound of faint, subdued laughter—sound that stung me to the quick.

So Kate and her companion were laughing at me; this was, indeed, the unkindest cut of all. I resolved never to dance the German with Kate Milton again.

The house was quiet and deserted as I returned and inserted my night-key in the little circular lock. What could have become of Bertha? The cold dew oozed out upon my brow as I, for one instant, contemplated the horrible possibility of my being left, a sort of modern Robinson Crusoe, with that unmanageable little man Friday on my hands.

Nonsense; there was no probability of that. I sat down on Bertha's low rocking-chair, and, planting the baby firmly on my knee, applied the spout of the pitcher to its mouth.

Would you believe it? he wouldn't drink a drop. He screwed his mouth up as tightly as if he never intended to open it again, and doubled himself over backwards with a strength of will that would have been remarkable in a full-grown man, but was simply marvellous in a ten months' old baby. I persevered, and he persevered. I poured the milk over his neck, his embroidered dress waist, and his coral amulets; he would have been drowned sooner than open his mouth half a quarter of an inch. Probably, of such stuff were our revolutionary fathers made; and this baby had, through some inscrutable blunder of dame Nature, come into the world just a century too late.

I put him back into the cradle, flat on his spinal column, and looked at him more in sorrow than in anger.

"My youngster," I addressed him, "cry away, cry your lungs out—break a blood-vessel or two, if agreeable to you—fracture your trachea! I can't be held legally responsible for it, thank Providence!"

I took up a book and sat down by the cradle, rocking it recklessly backwards and forwards, regardless of the screams which still rent the air. I wasn't going to waste any more time in trying to quiet him. Let him cry! This is a free country!

"Why, Joe, what is the matter?"

"It was Bertha's voice. I jumped up as if a cannon-ball had smitten me, and dashed my book upon the floor.

"Matter, ma'am; matter? The matter is that I'm going mad; I shall be a fit subject for a lunatic asylum in just about fifteen minutes more!"

But I might as well have wasted my despairing eloquence on a blank wall. She didn't hear or heed me. She was loading that little vixen with caresses, pity, and blandishments. And—I shouldn't have credited the sudden turn of affairs if I hadn't witnessed it with my own eyes—the baby absolutely laughed up in her face, as if to say, "I've given my uncle a pretty time of it!"

Yes—laughed and crowded, and held up his hands, and behaved exactly as if he had never in his small life known what it was to shed a tear. The hypocrites are not all grown up.

"Has he been good, Uncle Joe?"

I looked volumes at my sister:

"Bertha, if ever you leave me again in charge of that—that little atrocity, I'll commit suicide."

"You needn't speak so loud," said my sister in an injured voice; "I intended to have been home before, but the train was delayed, and—bless its little heart, did it want to come to its mamma's arms—and was Uncle Joseph crosser than an old bear, and wasn't it the sweetest little rose-bud that ever—"

I waited to hear no more, but rushed precipitately out of the room, convinced that of all fools, a young mother was the most hopeless specimen.

That's the last time I have had the heir of the family confided to my guardianship. I think Bertha's a little afraid to leave me alone in the room with him. "So mote it be!"

Some one sent me a comic valentine on the fourteenth of February—a picture of a hooked nosed old bachelor (*my nose* is a fine Romanesque curved) in a blue coat and red trousers, dandling the baby upside down; I solemnly believe it was Kate Milton!

I detest comic valentines, I abhor babies, and I believe in a life of old bachelorhood! That's my platform! Do you wonder at it?

THE SLIP BETWEEN THE CUP AND THE LIP.—The secretary to the Municipality of Florence, M. Saletti, who is partial to trying his luck in the lotteries, sent one of his men a few days ago to put 20^t on certain numbers to which he had taken a fancy, but the messenger forgot his commission until the offices were closed. Next morning M. Saletti, on his way to business, saw the figures which he had selected posted up as having gained a prize of £48,000. In his joy he announced the good news to his acquaintances, including the mayor and Count de Cambray-Digny, who warmly congratulated him. On reaching his bureau he rang the bell and asked for the receipt from the person whom he had charged to place his money. The latter, in a dreadful state of agitation, was obliged to confess that he had forgotten to execute the order he had received. The revulsion of feeling experienced by M. Saletti at seeing his hopes of being a millionaire destroyed cannot be described.

A CAT ON THE PREMISES.—An attorney's bill submitted for taxation in the Bristol District Bankruptcy Court last week contained the following novel item:—"Attending messenger who informed me that a cat was locked up on the bankrupt's premises; attending same, and releasing cat, 6s. 8d." At first this unique charge was taxed off by the registrar, but on the explanation that the stock on the premises was a valuable one, and might suffer considerable damage if the cat were allowed to remain in undisputed possession, the item was restored.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

CAPTAIN McDONALD, one of the candidates for Queen's County, committed suicide on Monday in Kingstown, by cutting his throat.

TERRIBLE SNOW STORMS have recently prevailed in Switzerland. A letter from Pau states the Pyrenees are so covered with snow that the bears come down upon the villages near Max-Chaudes, and carried off sheep and cows.

A SINGULAR occurrence has just taken place at Presburg in Hungary. The prior of the Convent of the Brothers of Mercy whilst celebrating mass, drank a quantity of sulphuric acid instead of water, which the attendant, a member of the choir, poured into the chalice instead of water. The prior fell dead at once on the steps of the altar.

A SINGULAR accident recently occurred on the Erie railway. A passenger train was travelling at a rapid pace, when a Mr. Buckley, who was seated at the window, was struck by a rail which had been loaded diagonally on a freight train passing in an opposite direction. One of his feet was nearly cut off, and he died. Several other persons were injured at the same time.

AN INQUEST has been held in Bethnal Green by Mr. Richards respecting the death of a widow named Harris who had committed suicide. The woman's mind became affected after the death of her husband, and her relatives put her in a private lunatic asylum, but she was discharged some time since as cured. She was found sitting on her bed quite dead with a rope round her neck; the other end of the rope was fastened to the top of the bed-post. The jury returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity."

FOUR MURDERS BY A MONOMANIAC.—A labourer named Panier, about 50 years of age, living at Amanze (Saone-et-Loire), suddenly seized a hatchet, a few days back, and killed two of his children, a boy of five and a girl of three. He then turned upon another son about nine, and after a struggle struck him on the temple with the same weapon, inflicting a mortal wound. A neighbour who heard the cries of the victims hastened to their assistance, but he also was felled to the ground, and died soon after. The gendarmes in the evening arrested Panier, who, without any doubt, is insane.

ANOTHER FATAL INUNDATION OF A COLLERY.—Another colliery has been the scene of an accident in some respects similar to that which occurred at Brierley Hill—a pit in the neighbourhood of Mansfield having been inundated, and four lives lost. On Friday, seven men, composing the night-shift—a smaller number than was usually employed—when working were startled by a sudden irruption of water, which rose so rapidly that before they could reach a place of safety four men, who were some distance in the pit, were drowned, and the remaining three only succeeded in escaping when the water, which is supposed to have penetrated from some old workings, had risen up to their chins.

THE INSURRECTION IN CUBA.—The *Nassau Herald* reports the capture of the American brig Mary Lowell, at Ragged Island by the Spanish man-of-war Andalusia. The brig at the time of the capture was in the possession of the custom-house officers on the charge that she was carrying arms and supplies to the insurgents in Cuba. The British war steamer Cherub has sailed from Nassau to Ragged Island to investigate the affair. The Havana Government is fully advised of the conduct of the commander of the Andalusia. The Peruvian monitors remain at Ragged Island. During their voyage one of the rams broke loose, ran into the steamer Havannah, and sank her. Seven of the crew of the Havannah were drowned.

VESSEL FOUNDRED IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.—Captain Joseph Wise, of the bark Ebeu, of Whitehaven, arrived at Liverpool from London, furnishes the following report of a total loss of a vessel, with all on board, in the English Channel:—"March 29, at 6 p.m., in lat. 50° 58' N., long. 6° 30' W., a brig in sight on the lee beam, distant about six miles. She was rolling very heavily, and in less than five minutes founders. Immediately set fore and aft sail, got the barque off the wind, and run to leeward for a length of time in the hope to save some lives or property, but did not succeed. Night was closing in fast, and we could see no distance, so I was obliged to keep my course. It was then blowing a terrible gale from E.N.E. Description of the brig—about 230 tons, painted all black, figure-head very small, if any, large square stern, and the vessel very deeply laden."

THE NORWICH MURDER.—The High Sheriff of Norfolk has fixed Monday, the 19th inst., at eight o'clock, for the execution of William Sheward, who has been just convicted of the murder of his wife eighteen years ago. Besides the circumstances which are mentioned in the letters that have been published on the case, there is another peculiarity about it, which is likely to come under the notice of the judges. It appears that the offence being committed within the city of Norwich, a city jury was duly empanelled to try the case, but the trial actually took place in the county court, which is beyond the city jurisdiction; hence there appears to be considerable doubt whether the prisoner was legally convicted, and it is said that an application will be made to the Attorney-General for his *suit* for a writ of error.

TRADE OUTRAGE.—John Martin, aged 38, was tried before Mr. Fitzjames Stephen at the Leeds Assizes, on Saturday, for throwing a bottle of gunpowder into the house of his cousin, Joseph Martin, at Sheffield. The prosecutor was formerly a member of the Saw Handle Makers' Union, but left it some months since, and the outrage was supposed to have reference to this proceeding. The brother and sister of the prisoner gave evidence against him, and after the verdict of the jury had been returned, evidence of previous committals was given. The character of the prisoner was very bad indeed. As the learned judge said, he had passed the last twenty years in penal servitude; and he therefore gave him fourteen years' penal servitude in addition, which was the severest sentence permitted by law.

MURDER OF A FATHER.—On Friday morning last week Samuel Bennett, residing at Poole's-fold, near Bolton, was taken into custody on a charge of having killed his father, Thomas Bennett, a labourer, aged 49 years. It seems that on the Wednesday evening Bennett and his father were returning home from Bolton, in the cart of a greengrocer named Holt, all being the worse for liquor, when they had some words together. In a fit of exasperation Bennett pitched his father out of the cart into the road, and it is said the wheels passed over him. He then jumped out of the cart and brutally

kicked his father about the body. On being picked up the old man was found to have sustained a fracture of the spine, and he died on the Thursday evening. He leaves a widow who is in Chester Asylum; and the prisoner, who is also of weak mind, is the only son, and is 17 years of age.

FEARFUL GAS EXPLOSION.—A tremendous gas explosion took place at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Tuesday morning. An old widow lady who lived there with two of her nephews and a child noticed on coming down-stairs that there had been an escape of gas in the house, and having visited the cellar without discovering the cause, went into a back sitting-room, with a lighted candle, and mounted some steps to examine the pendant. The usual result followed. An explosion instantly knocked her down, her dress was reduced to tinder, and herself so badly burnt that it is feared she cannot possibly recover. The room window was blown out, the walls injured, various doors blown down, furniture and crockery smashed, and other serious damage done, yet, strange to say, the little girl, who stood by the steps, only had her hair and frock slightly burned, and the boy, who happened to be kneeling, down, escaped injury altogether.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO SALMON FISHERS.—The *Dundee Advertiser* reports that four salmon fishers have been drowned at Lossiemouth. On Saturday morning, about six o'clock, four men belonging to Aberdeenshire left Lossiemouth in a boat for the salmon fishing off that coast. The weather was rather stormy, and the sea a little heavy. Nothing more was heard or seen of the boat or men until about ten o'clock, when the former was found to have drifted ashore, bottom upwards, about a mile east from Lossiemouth. No trace of the ill-fated men has been got. Their names were—William Fife, aged fifty, sometime merchant, Lossiemouth, leaves a wife and a family of five; William Davidson, aged forty, belonging to New Machar, leaves a wife and a family of three; John Henderson, New Machar, aged twenty-eight, leaves a wife and one child; and James Thos, Woodside, aged twenty-five, unmarried.

THE CASE OF THE GIRL ATTEMPTING TO POISON HER MOTHER.—At the Liverpool Police-court, on Saturday, Elizabeth Jones, the girl remanded on the charge of attempting to poison her mother, a widow, living in Rockby-street, Everton, was again brought up. It appears she indirectly caused her parent to drink a mixture of Crew's Disinfecting Fluid and gin, and serious consequences were apprehended in the first instance. The poor woman has now nearly recovered, and it was stated that she did not wish to press the charge, believing that the girl did not intend to injure her. Mr. Raffles remarked that if it was proved that the prisoner had mixed the gin and the fluid, and was instrumental in causing her mother to partake of it, he had no alternative but to send the case for trial. She was again remanded that the chemist who analysed the mixture might be in attendance.

OUTRAGES IN ROME.—A communication from Rome says:—"The outrages committed here are becoming more and more alarming. A few days ago, at nine in the evening, Major Fiocchi, of the Pontifical artillery, author of a "Life of Jesus Christ," and a devoted partisan of the Pope, was stabbed by an assassin on the stairs of his own house, in the Piazza Fiammetta. Death was instantaneous, and the assassin escaped, but suspicion has fallen on the major's brother-in-law, Signor Albanasi, and the police have taken him into custody. On the same day a foreign lady, who had just received the sum of 25,000fr., was dogged by two thieves into the Church of St. Louis of France, where she went to hear mass. One of the ruffians got possession of her pocket-book, containing the money, though she caught his hand and tried to wrest it from him. She then raised an outcry, and fortunately some Zouaves reached the door of the church in time to intercept the thief and recover the money."

GARROTTERS SENTENCED TO BE FLOGGED.—Joseph Riley, 18, cloth dresser, Benjamin Cass, carter, Jane Leonard, 17, and Esther Hoyle, 18, both factory hands, were charged at the Leeds assizes, before Mr. Forsyth, Q.C., with assaulting William Richmond, and stealing a watch, 9s. 6d. in money, and other property. Mr. Middleton prosecuted. Prosecutor, who is a mechanic, living in Mill-street, Leeds, was returning home at midnight from a public-house in Marsh-lane, when he was set upon. Cass, the other prisoner, was belling him at the time, knocked him down, garrotted him, and kicked him whilst on the ground. The robbery was committed with the assistance of the other prisoners, who then ran away. Prosecutor was so much injured about the throat that he was unable either to follow them or give an alarm. They were, however, pursued by other parties and given into custody. The male prisoners were sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, and were, in addition, each ordered to receive 20 strokes with the cat, an announcement which set the fellows howling in anticipation. The females were ordered to be imprisoned for twelve months each.

SHOCKING SUICIDE.—On Monday the coroner for Colchester held an inquest at the Cavalry Barracks, in that town, upon the body of Richard John Primrose, a lance-sergeant in the 3rd Dragoon Guards. The body of the deceased had been found on his bed, the left hand grasping a carbine, and his head and face frightfully shattered, while the walls were bespattered with blood and brains, and there was a pool of blood upon the floor. On a table close by were two letters, one addressed to the deceased's father, and the other to the schoolmistress of the regiment, and in both of which he spoke of his speedy death, giving as a cause that he had been subjected to a great deal of "persecution and annoyance" from the colonel of his regiment, and he could stand it no longer. He also said that a "mania" had seized him, and he felt "compelled to take this course." In reply to questions by the coroner, it was elicited that the deceased had been spoken to several times lately by the colonel in reference to the repeated mistakes which had occurred in his returns to headquarters; but all agreed that the colonel's manner had not been harsh; besides which the deceased had never complained to those with whom he associated of any ill-treatment. The jury returned a verdict that deceased destroyed himself while in a state of temporary insanity.

THE GATHURST MURDER.—The shocking murder of a little girl named Annie Houghton, at Gathurst, near Wigan in December last, will be fresh in the memories of our readers, and it will not be forgotten that the exertions of the police to discover the murderer have hitherto been unsuccessful. That they have not given up the search, however, may be gathered from the following placard, which has been issued this week by Mr. Superintendent Ellison:—"£100 Reward.

—Further information regarding the murder of Annie Houghton, aged 12, at Ackhurst-hall, Orrell, near Wigan, who was murdered at her father's house during the absence of her parents, by some person or persons unknown, between half-past six and half-past seven, on the evening of the 15th of December, 1868. At the time of the murder a silver Geneva watch, of which the following is a description, was stolen from the house:—No. 424, white silver dial, with gold centre and yellow figures in old English; the spring of the back case is weak, and a slight shake will cause the case to fly open. A reward of £100, namely, £50 by Her Majesty's Government, and £50 by Mr. Joseph Roper, will be paid to any person who shall give such information and evidence as shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the murderer or murderers, and the Secretary of State will advise the grant of Her Majesty's gracious pardon to any accomplice, not being the actual murderer, who shall give such evidence as shall lead to the above result. Information to be given to the chief constable, county police office, Preston; to Mr. Ellison, superintendent of the county police, Pemberton, near Wigan; or at any of the police stations in the county of Lancaster. By order of the Chief Constable."

A HYPOCRITICAL SWINDLER.—A man named Rollet, aged 40, has just been tried at Lunéville (Meurthe) on numerous charges of swindling. This individual had marked out for himself quite a new line in his profession, and which he has practised with success over France during the last 16 years, although from time to time interrupted by a forced residence in prison. His system was to travel about from parish to parish, calling with a grave demeanour on the clergy, and expressing a desire to confess; he presented himself as a fresco painter, and under the pretence that he had broken his leg by a fall from a scaffolding and was unable to kneel, he induced the priests to hear the avowal of his sins at their residences, which places he found more convenient for his ultimate purpose. His dress of a decayed gentleman, his apparent penitence, and the asperior language in which he expressed himself rarely failed to make an impression on his hearer; and then a plausible story of his distress and his want of a temporary loan of 25fr. followed, and in most cases his appeal was not made in vain. However, in a recent tour in Lorraine, the court of Bayon, who had heard his confession and advanced the usual sum, was afterwards seized with a suspicion that he had been imposed on, and on a complaint to the gendarmes Rollet was arrested just as he was leaving, the priest of the neighbouring parish of Einvaux, where he had also been successful in obtaining the loan by the same means. Rollet appears to have been of a good family, but had sunk to a low point of degradation, and had at one time become a servant in a house of ill-fame. His hypocrisy he, however, practised with such art that few of the priests to whom he applied failed to become his dupes. He was now condemned to 10 years' imprisonment and 500fr. fine.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE VICEROY OF EGYPT.—Attempts to assassinate the Viceroy of Egypt are reported by the *Times*' special correspondent with the Prince of Wales's party, and by Mr. Reuter's agent at Alexandria. A special train from Ismailia was conveying the Viceroy and his suite to Cairo to meet the Prince and Princess of Wales. On approaching Cairo a kind of detonation was heard; it sounded to me (the *Times* correspondent writes) like a distant gun. I took it to be one fired from a citadel as a signal, but on inquiry it was discovered that a sort of fog signal of an unusual character had been exploded on the line, and as two servants or employés of a banished Pasha related to the Viceroy were seen near the place the idea gained hold of the authorities that some serious attempt had been conceived against the Viceroy's life, and arrests were effected. If any one really thought or intended mischief to life or limb, a more silly person or a more stupid design could not well be imagined. It is certain, however, that persons in high station are of opinion that there was something in it—to blow up a train by a fog signal, for thus the fulminating body is described. Cairo was very gay notwithstanding, and if the Viceroy felt any uneasiness there was nothing in his manner to evince it. The second attempt—if the first was an attempt at all—was made on Friday night, and it is thus described by the Alexandria telegraphist:—An explosive machine, with a powder train leading to the door, and attached by a tube to the gas pipe, was found under the seat of the Viceregal box in the theatre at Cairo. The Viceroy was apprised of the projected attempt on his life, and stayed away. The perpetrators are unknown, but several persons have been arrested on suspicion. His highness has received the congratulations of the foreign Ministers and Egyptian functionaries on his escape.

DEATHS FROM STARVATION AT SUDSBURY.—Mr. R. Ransom, the coroner, resumed a few days ago the inquest at Sudbury on the bodies of Mary Ready, aged 70 years, and Mary Ann Althea Ready, her daughter, aged 34, who were both found dead in a cottage at 36, Cross-street, Sudbury, on the 16th ult. The bodies of the deceased were discovered in the cottage at 36, Cross-street. That of the elder woman, which was found lying under an old covering in one of the upper rooms, appeared to have been dead some weeks. That of the daughter was found lying on the floor near the street door. Her only clothes were an old cloak, a bonnet, stockings, and one golosh on her left foot. The deceased a few years ago had carried on business as staymakers, and had a well-furnished house. They fell into poverty and sold their furniture, but refused to go into the workhouse, and also refused to accept parish relief when it was offered. Yesterday William Stevens said that he had lived with the deceased as a lodger for seven months up to the 26th of February, and during that time they were starving. The only money they had while he remained with them was £2 13s. The two women occasionally went out to ask for assistance, but they got very little that way. The elder deceased died on the 23rd of February, and on the 26th he set out to walk to London on foot in search of work. The younger deceased said, before he left, that she would give information as to the death of her mother, and the witness thought she had done so until informed by the superintendent in London of the discovery of the bodies in the cottage. He did not previously know that the younger deceased was dead. Mr. M. Mason, surgeon of Sudbury, deposed that he had made a post mortem examination of both bodies, and also analyses of the contents of the stomachs. He found no traces of poison, and the cause of death was starvation and exposure to cold. The jury returned a verdict that "The deceased died from starvation and exposure to the cold." The inquiry then terminated.

HOME AND DOMESTIC.

THE death of the Right Rev. Dr. Hynes, Bishop of Demerara, is announced. The venerable prelate expired at Paris on Tuesday last, while on his way to Ireland from Cannes where he had been spending the winter.

CO-OPERATIVE societies (the *Leeds Mercury* remarks) just now seem to be rather unfortunate. A few weeks ago, one of these establishments was robbed of a large number of cheques, representing value, and now the store at Bolton was discovered to have been entered, and more than £100 stolen.

THE Liverpool workhouse committee have decided to entertain a proposal from Miss Rye to take all their orphan girls for her emigration-scheme, each girl being supplied with £8 by the parochial authorities. Mr. Mathewson, M.P., brought Miss Rye's scheme forward.

THE newest idea in the velocipede way is an aquatic velocipede. Two oars are joined together, Siamese twins fashion. The man-machine sits on a raised seat over the two boats, the wheels are between them, and the driving force is the feet on each side, the same as bicycles.

ECONOMY AT GREENWICH HOSPITAL.—An admiralty order has been received for the closing of two of the three gates at which visitors and the inmates have hitherto been admitted to Greenwich Hospital. This is calculated to effect a saving of about £600 per annum, in reducing the number of metropolitan police employed from seventeen to seven.

ADMIRAL Thomas Mansel died at Fareham on the 1st inst., in his eighty-sixth year. He entered the navy in 1798; was present at the reduction of St. Domingo in 1805; was wounded while recapturing a merchant vessel off Cuba; and was present at the taking of the Isle of France in 1810. He became rear-admiral in 1836, vice-admiral 1863, and admiral 1867.

MR MAZZINI, son-in-law of Mr. James White, M.P., was staying at the Bath Hotel, Piccadilly, last week. On Friday evening he went to bed apparently in good health, and on Saturday morning, when the chambermaid went to call him, he was found dead. Death is supposed to have resulted from heart disease. Mr. Mazzini had made arrangements to leave London on Saturday for Florence, to fetch home his wife and family.

THE Queen has consented to depute a member of the Royal family to lay the foundation stone of a second pair of buildings for the National Cottage Hospital for Diseases of the Chest at Ventnor. The entire design of the institution comprises eight pairs of houses, capable of accommodating 100 consumptive patients, and nearly £4,000 has been already raised towards the advancement of this benevolent object.

THE TRADES' UNION COMMISSION REPORT.—The committee of the London Amalgamated Trades' Conference have held several sittings to consider the report of the Trades' Union Commissioners, and have come to the conclusion to oppose, by all legitimate means, nearly the whole of the recommendations of the majority of the commissioners. Before, however, making any public opposition they will wait to see what legislative action may be taken by the Government in reference to the report.

LORD STANLEY IN EDINBURGH.—Lord Stanley paid a visit on Monday to various places of interest in and around the city. Early in the forenoon his lordship, accompanied by Mr. E. S. Gordon, drove to the castle, which he examined with much interest. In the course of the day Lord Stanley proceeded to the university, where he was observed by the students, and enthusiastically cheered. Lord Stanley dined in the evening with Mr. Gordon and a select party.

THE marriage of the Hon. Clementina Charlotte Heathcote, eldest daughter of Lord Aveland, and Captain George Tryon, R.N. C.B., took place on Monday at St. George's, Hanover-square. Only the relatives of the bride and bridegroom were present on the occasion. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. George Heathcote, the bride being given away by her brother Lord Aveland. The breakfast was at Lord and Lady Aveland's residence, in Belgrave-square, and early in the afternoon the captain and his bride left for Bulby Hall, Lincolnshire, to spend their honeymoon.

A MEETING of wholesale newsagents was held on Tuesday night at the News Exchange, Black Horse-alley, Fleet-street, in support of a movement, recently set on foot in Finsbury and Westminster for discouraging the publication, delivery, and sale of newspapers and other periodicals in the streets on Sundays. A resolution in favour of the movement was carried with only one dissentient. It is estimated that about 6,000 persons in London are employed on Sunday in connection with the sale of newspapers.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON'S PERMISSIVE BILL.—A meeting has been held in the Alliance Hall, Union-street, Deptford, in promotion of the second reading of the Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill. The chair was occupied by the Rev. J. P. Courtenay, M.A., of Christ Church, Deptford, who said that the great amount of destitution and vice in his own district was chiefly due to the drinking habits formed and fostered by the liquor traffic carried on there. A petition to Parliament in behalf of the bill was moved by Mr. W. Wightman, seconded by the Rev. Dawson Burns, M.A., and unanimously carried. A series of district meetings in support of the same measure will be during the present month, to be followed by an aggregate meeting in St. James's Hull on the 4th of May.

BAPTISM OF A RABBI'S SON.—A correspondent of the Vienna *Presse* writes to that paper from Cracow:—"Yesterday was an exciting day; consternation reigned in the kingdom of Israel, and joyful surprise among the Christian population. Imagine the great event in Cracow, a city which possesses as many pious Jews as devout Christians—the son of a rabbi suddenly applied to be baptised! Herr Abraham Finger—such is the name of the convert—who did not seem to be ambitious of the reversion of his father's holy office, resolved to become a member of the Catholic Church. Who can describe the rage of the orthodox Jews, or the triumph of the Christians, who see the finger of Providence in the conversion of the rabbi's son? The convert, who is about thirty-eight years of age, abjured Judaism in the Dominican Church. The affair has also its financial side. The proselyte received a present of a few thousand florins from some members of our local aristocracy."

ENGLISH GIRLS AND THE FRENCH MARRIAGE LAW.—The Tribunal of First Instance of Paris has just declared null and void a marriage between a Frenchman and an English girl, which was solemnised at Cardiff on the 14th November, 1867. The names of the parties are not given in the report. It appears that they at first attempted to get married by the French Consul at Cardiff, but he refused to perform the ceremony, on the ground that the previous formalities required by French law had not been complied with. They were then married before the registrar, and also by a Catholic priest, at St. David's Chapel, Cardiff. The husband was at the time 28 years of age, and the young lady, whose father, moreover, gave his consent, was upwards of 21. The Court held that although the marriage before the registrar was valid according to the laws of England, yet it was void in France, because clandestine, and purposely concealed from the husband's father, whose consent should first have been asked by an *acte respectueux*. This is a new instance of the danger which English girls run when they marry foreigners in England.

SOME of the papers have published an account of an extraordinary meteor which was seen in Cumberland on Saturday morning.

The story as printed appeared very doubtful; but it is confirmed as to its main features by our own correspondent at Carlisle. The time of the appearance was between four and five o'clock in the morning. The meteor first appeared in the north-east part of the sky, and took a rapid course to the south-west, and then seemed to burst with a force which caused violent vibrations in the air. Some persons who saw it describe the meteor as a large ball of fire; others consider it was more like a "pillar of fire." While it was careering through the heavens the sky was brilliantly illuminated, and when it burst the noise was like thunder, and wakened many people from their sleep. Mr. Thomas Pritchard, of Regent-road, Manchester, says that the meteor was visible in Manchester at ten minutes past five. It travelled at a very rapid rate, and just before doing itself seemed to break up into large pieces, resembling molten iron. Mr. Pritchard did not hear any explosion.

TWO individuals, exceedingly well-dressed, accompanied by two elegant ladies, presented themselves at a restaurant on the Boulevard des Italiens about midnight, and called for supper. The party ate and drank well, bestowing their favours with great impartiality on all the delicacies that could be procured. The supper was succeeded by dessert, and a bottle or two of Bordeaux and Moët. The ladies were then despatched in a cab, and the bill called for, which amounted to 90 francs 75 centimes. After examining the items, and expressing their satisfaction with the supper, one of them addressed the proprietor:—"Monsieur, our intention was to depart for another world, and previous to doing so we resolved to have a joyous adventure and an excellent supper; then to commit suicide," pointing to two loaded revolvers on the table. "We have executed the first part of our programme, but the resolution to fulfil the second part has departed. As we have not any money to pay for your supper, you can do with us just what you please." They refuse to give any information about themselves, and were consequently handed over to the police.

THE DEATH OF LORD CLONCURRY.—The evidence at the inquest on Monday on the body of Lord Cloncurry showed that he had been for two months in such a state of mental disease as to require the constant care of a medical attendant. On Saturday Mr. Flood, in whose charge the deceased was, asked his lordship to have a walk, and Lord Cloncurry agreed, but suddenly left him at the stable yard, and the witness saw him no more until workmen ran towards him saying that his lordship was dead. Patrick Hickson, a labourer, said he saw his lordship sitting on the window-sill of one of the upper windows. "He turned himself round, dropped down, and hung for a moment by his hands from the window-sill, falling immediately to the ground below." Dr. Banks said Lord Cloncurry had been subject for a long time to severe headaches, which he attributed to brain disease. About two months ago the unsoundness of his mind became serious. The verdict returned was that "Edward, Baron Cloncurry met his death by falling from a window in the third story of Lyons House on the 3rd of April, 1869, being at the time of unsound mind and unaccountable for his acts."

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.—The Bill for the Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt complementary to the new Bankruptcy Consolidation Bill, has been issued. With certain exceptions it abolishes all arrest or imprisonment for making default in payment of a sum of money. The exceptions are as follows:—Default in payment of a penalty, of any sum recoverable summarily, of any sum under a trust, of any moneys due under a judicial order by attorneys, solicitors, or others. That power of the county court judges to commit for small debts is reserved. Bankrupts may also be arrested if about to quit England. All persons in custody are to be discharged on the passing of the act; but the property of debtors may be sequestered just as if they were arrested. The second part of the bill provides for the punishment of fraudulent debtors for withholding any information or property from creditors, falsifying accounts, obtaining goods on credit within four months of bankruptcy, pawning, mortgaging, or otherwise disposing of goods to the injury of creditors, &c. The punishment for these offences is fixed at a maximum of two years' imprisonment, with or without hard labour; for absconding with property penal servitude for not more than five years: false claim, &c., imprisonment for a year. Any court exercising jurisdiction in Bankruptcy may order a trustee to prosecute or the papers to be laid before the Attorney-General, and in such a case the expenses of prosecution will be allowed as in cases of felony.

THE BERMONDSEY MUTILATION CASE.—Ellen Cook, who is described as a very robust-looking woman, aged forty-four, was indicted before Mr. Justice Brett at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday morning for feloniously wounding her husband James Cook, with intent to murder him. In a second count she was charged with wounding with intent to inflict bodily harm. The facts of this case are already well known. When the prisoner was put into the dock she said in a clear voice that she was not guilty. She never intended to murder her husband, and only acted in her own defence. She never used a knife, and never tied him down to bed in her life. Evidence was then given for the prosecution, and while the case was proceeding the prisoner frequently sobbed and declared her innocence. The first witness was Inspector Turpin, who described the state of the room in which the crime was perpetrated, and produced a rope and a large tableknife, on which there was blood, and which he found in the room. Mr. Richard Rendle, the house surgeon at Guy's Hospital, said that on the 24th of February the prosecutor, James Cook, a man about forty-three years of age, was brought to the hospital. His right eye projected more than was natural, and both eyelids were pushed in behind the eye ball. The witness then described the other injuries which the man had sustained. He was, the witness added, in a very dangerous state, but he was now recovering. He had, however, lost the sight of one eye. Police-constable Edward Collard deposed to taking the prisoner into custody on the 27th of February, and said she then made a statement, the purport of which was that her husband met with the injuries he had sustained in consequence of a quarrel between them, she having acted only in her own defence. In cross-examination the witness said the prisoner wore a Paisley shawl, and he could not see whether the body of her dress was torn. The prisoner here stood up and displayed the body of her dress, which was very much torn. The wounded man was then brought into the witness-box in a chair. His head was bandaged, and he seemed very pale and weak. He had been brought from Guy's Hospital, and was taken back there after giving evidence. He said he lived at 42, Star-corner, Bermondsey, with his wife, and on the 24th of February, after they had finished breakfast, about half-past eleven o'clock, there being no one else in the house, she asked him to go up-stairs and allow her to tie him to the bed, and she would be good-tempered for the rest of the day. He consented, and was tied down to the bed, after undressing himself. While being tied there was a knock at the door, and the prisoner went down and opened it, and when she returned said that it was only somebody asking for the tobacconist's shop next door. On five previous occasions he had been tied down in the same way. In a short time he felt that he was being wounded. He described the outrage that had been committed upon him. The prisoner afterwards fell upon him and attempted to gouge out his eyes, and then went away, and he managed to free himself and was conveyed to the hospital. In cross-examination Cook said he had been married to the prisoner eighteen years, and she had had five children by him. The prisoner said she had had ten children. Her statement before the magistrate was then read, and in it she said the prosecutor attacked her with the knife. This closed the evidence, and Mr. Montagu Williams then addressed the jury for the defence. She was sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

FRANCE.

PARIS, April 4, Evening. THE *Etendard* of this evening formally denies rumours which have been circulated here respecting alleged orders for warlike preparations at Cherbourg.

PARIS, April 5, Evening.

The *Etendard* of this evening denies that an exchange of telegrams relative to the demolition of the Luxembourg fortifications has taken place between the Cabinets of Paris and Berlin.

The same journal also denies the existence of a Franco-Italian treaty of alliance.

PARIS, April 6, Evening.

The Government journals of this evening publish semi-official contradiction of the rumours which have been current of a growing reserve in the relations between the French and Prussian Governments.

It is asserted that the general elections are fixed for the 30th of May.

SPAIN.

MADRID, April 5. It is stated that Señor Olozaga will go to Lisbon on Wednesday to offer the crown of Spain to the ex-King Ferdinand.

A decree of Señor Sigasta postpones the drawing for the conscription until the 25th April.

An ordinance of Señor Figuerola authorises the introduction of Bibles and other Protestant books printed in foreign languages.

MADRID, April 6, Evening.

To-day the Cortes commenced the debate upon the draft of the Constitution. Señor Sanchez Ruano spoke against several of its proposed provisions as being reactionary.

The Portuguese Minister in this city has received a telegram ordering him to inform the Spanish Government that Dom Fernando categorically refuses the offer of the Spanish crown.

AUSTRIA.

VIENNA, April 2, Evening.

The *Presse* of this evening publishes a special despatch, asserting that the Sublime Porte and the Persian Government have come to an understanding to submit the settlement of the frontier question to a mixed commission. It is added that in any case all danger of an armed conflict has now disappeared.

GREECE.

ATHENS, April 1. The King and Queen left to-day for Corfu, where they intended to pass the summer months.

CHILI.

HAMBURG, April 3.

Intelligence has been received here from Valparaiso of the 24th February, via New York, announcing that a great fire has taken place in that city, whereby the places of business of several German merchants were destroyed. No details have been received.

SWITZERLAND.

BERNE, April 1.

An address, signed by 4,000 citizens, has been presented to the Government of the canton of Geneva, asking that energetic steps should be taken in view of the terrorist attitude assumed by the international association of workmen.

ITALY.

FLORENCE, April 4.

The King has conferred upon General Meiring the Collar of the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, and has made the general a present of a splendid English mare from the royal stables.

INDIA.

BOMBAY, April 3.

The Ameer of Afghanistan leaves Umballa to-day, and Lord Mayo will leave on Monday, the latter arriving at Simla on the 26th inst.

The Viceroy's Council has decided not to make a personal treaty with Shere Ali, nor to send a British resident to Cabool. The spirit of the Government's policy is unchanged.

AMERICA.

NEW YORK, March 24.

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Anthony, of Rhode Island, was unanimously elected president *pro tem.*, during the absence of Mr. Colfax.

Senator Sprague presented a petition for female suffrage, and made a brief speech in its favour.

UNITED METHODISTS DISAGREEING.—On Sunday a fight took place in the United Methodist Free Church, Wellington-street, Batley, between the teachers and one trustee on one side, and the rest of the trustees on the other. The news that a fight was taking place quickly spread, and a large number of people assembled from all parts of the neighbourhood and cheered on the combatants. The secretary of the school was severely bitten on the thumb whilst trying to throw his antagonist, a teacher received a blow on the eye, and another on the head, and there was a good deal of what may be described as rough and tumble work. At last an inspector of police and two officers having heard of what was taking place, went and prevented any further breaches of the peace, and having got the keys of the chapel they locked it up, and, of course, no service took place that day. The keys have, however, been given up to the trustees, who appear to be the masters of the situation so far, but proceedings have been taken against some of them for assaults. The origin of the fight is somewhat involved in mystery; but it seems that for some months past the managers of the Sunday school and the trustees have not been on good terms, and so late as the previous Tuesday the aid of the police had to be sought to prevent the peace being broken. A majority of the trustees forbade the teachers to enter the school again; but the latter, or at least a portion of them, being supported by one of the trustees, took away an harmonium they had lent to the school, and on Sunday, when they went to commence their duties, they found that, by way of retaliation, all the books and forms, &c., had been removed to the chapel, and that the door was locked. The supporting trustees burst this open, and it was in the endeavour to rescue the educational appliances from the hands of the trustees on guard that the fight took place.

THE BEAR AND THE MAGISTRATES.

On Saturday, before the Brentwood justices, two Italians, Le Trim Sabin and José Jeraut, were charged with exhibiting a dancing bear in Bridge-street, Hounslow, to the common danger of passengers, and assaulting Police-constable Bowden whilst in the execution of his duty.

The evidence showed that whilst the prisoners were performing in the streets of Hounslow with their bear Police-constable Bowden took them into custody, as they were making a great obstruction. They were taken, with the bear, to the police-station, an immense crowd of people following them through curiosity. One of the prisoners struck Bowden on the breast, and threatened to stab him with a knife, which he brandished about. At the station the men were placed in the cell with the bear, but Bruin, though in company with his masters, did not like durance vile, and howled most dolefully. The trio had to be let out, but the bear had in the interim completely destroyed every piece of furniture in the cell. It then ran in the most frantic state into the office, where it attacked Police-constable Watts, knocking him down, after which it vented its wrath upon the furniture, destroying many things; and made hot pursuit of Police-sergeant Blake, galloping after him to the landing of the first flight of stairs, to the utter consternation of the other inmates, females and children; but the sergeant gallantly kept it at bay until Sabin and Jeraut called their companion down-stairs, and thus relieved the officers and inmates from any further fear of being worried.

ventured a suggestion that, as their worships would not let the bear adrift, they should send it out to "walk in the Zoo." This, though received with roars of laughter, their worships considered to be the only feasible way of dealing with the dilemma, and Mr. Glossop accordingly wrote a note to the authorities of the Regent's-park Zoological Gardens asking them to take care of Bruin during its masters' month of imprisonment, and for that purpose to send a cage over to Brentford for its reception.

A CITY SWEPT AWAY BY A FLOOD.

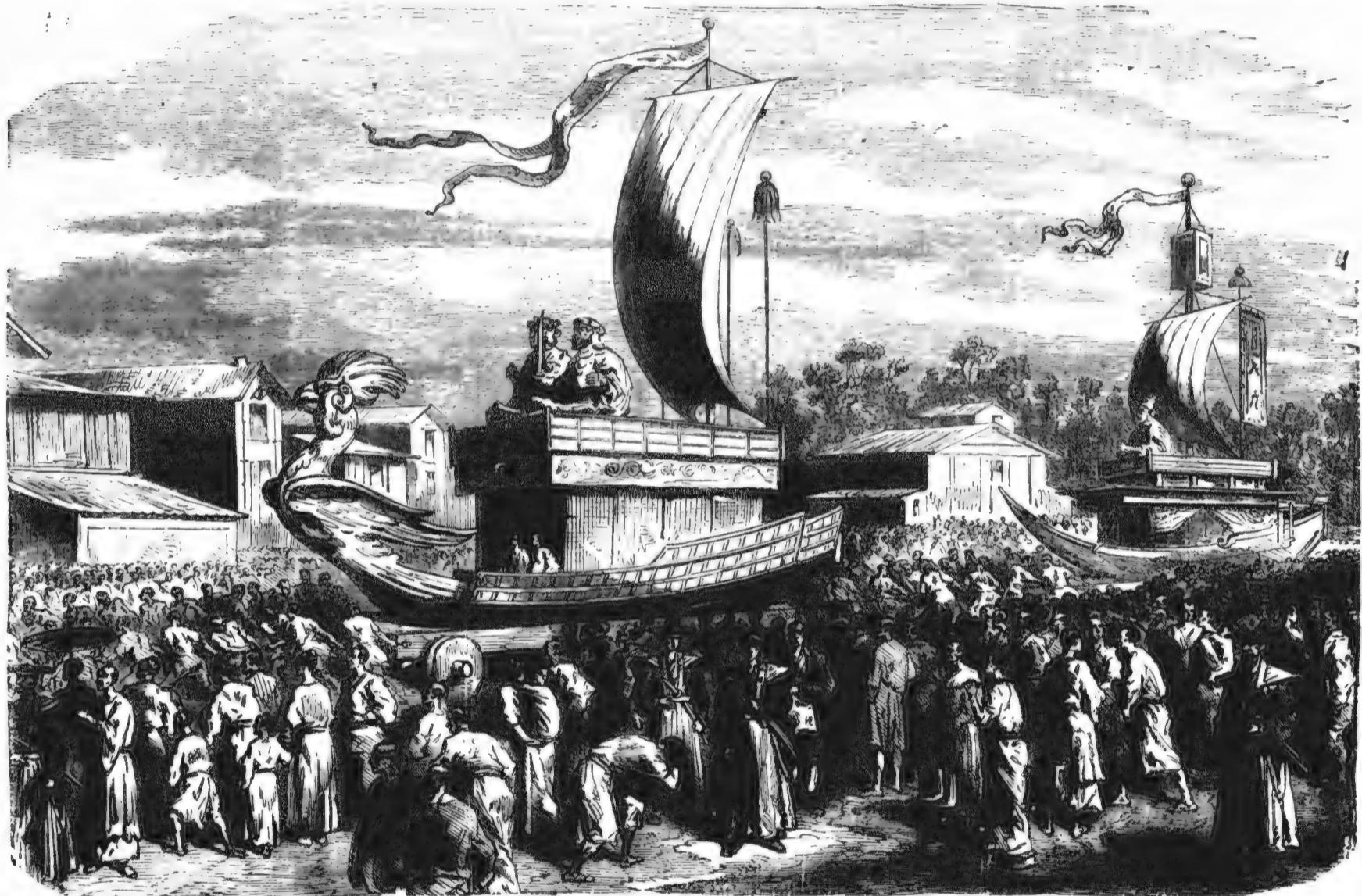
The *San Francisco Bulletin* gives the following particulars, written by an eye-witness, of the destruction of the Mexican city, Alamos, Sonora, by a flood:—"The agony we have all gone through within the past few days is impossible to describe. Probably you have heard ere this that the city of Alamos is in ruins; but as you may not have heard all the particulars, I will give you what I know. On the 15th of December it commenced to rain, and on the 16th a genuine wind and rain storm set in, lasting until the 18th. It seemed as if the very flood-gates of heaven had opened, and that a second deluge was upon the world. The wind, too, roared with dreadful fury, and all the elements seemed combined for some dreadful carnage. We little saw what was in store for our beautiful city. But soon the tale was told, and the destruction was complete. The storm lasted until late on the evening of the 18th. During its continuance it

PROGRESS OF THE AMEER SHERE ALI ON HIS VISIT TO EARL MAYO.

We recently gave a telegraphic account of the visit of the Ameer Shere Ali to Earl Mayo, the British Viceroy of India. We this week present a large engraving of the Ameer on his progress to the meeting, which will give an idea of the state effect of that important visit. The presents made to Shere Ali on the occasion by the Government is estimated at £10,000.

THE IMPORTANT DEPUTATIONS ON THE SUNDAY QUESTION.

Mr. Bruce received three several deputations, and had to listen to no fewer than twenty-five speeches on Monday on the Sunday question. First came a deputation representing and consisting, it is stated, of working men, for whom Mr. Morell, of the Sunday League, was spokesman. This gentleman spoke at considerable length upon the benefit which working men would gain by being able to visit works of art on Sundays. The reason, he said, why the work of English goldsmiths had to be finished by Continental workmen was that English workmen could not cultivate their taste by spending Sunday in picture galleries and museums, while their brethren on the Continent had that advantage. Mr. Morell endeavoured to convince the Home Secretary that the unanimous, or almost unanimous, feeling of the working men is in favour of the objects sought by the Sunday League.



PROCESSION OF THE GOD AND GODDESS OF THE OCEAN IN JAPAN.—(SEE PAGE 1085.)

Whilst the case was being heard on Saturday, the bear was in waiting in a stronghold under the Townhall, where some hundreds of people had congregated to hear the result.

The prisoners, to whom Dr. Cooper and Mr. Glossop alternately acted as interpreters, denied striking or threatening to stab the constable, and said they did not intend to do any harm.

The bench said there was a dangerous exhibition, and must be put down. The prisoners had already promised one of the London magistrates to leave the country; but here they were again, found terrifying women and children and assaulting the police. Such things could not be tolerated in England, and they must be taught so. They must each go to gaol for one month.

"What is to become of the bear?" had next to be considered, and the bench were for a long time in a perfect quandary as to its proper disposal. A variety of humorous suggestions were offered by the professional gentlemen in attendance in reply to the question of Mr. Glossop, the chairman of the bench, "Will some gentleman in court act as *amicus curiae* in this matter?" Some suggested that as Colonel Henderson had just issued an order permitting the police to cultivate the beard, Bruin should be slaughtered, and made to contribute the first instalment of pomade for that purpose. Mr. Superintendent Fisher was appealed to, but he said he could offer their worships no advice. Mr. Glossop said it was evident they could not allow the bear to go about *per naturam* and let it free to roam about the fields, and they had no power to slaughter it, for it was the prisoners' means of livelihood, serving them in the same capacity that a chest of tools served a carpenter. At last Mr. Haynes, the solicitor,

appeared as if no human being could live within its reach. The Alamos river was swollen to a great height, and in its wild, headlong course carried everything before it. Houses were swept away like so many straws, and whole blocks of buildings were thrown down like so many rotten trees. The wind was no less terrible than the water. Houses were unroofed and blown to shatters; tiles and like material were scattered through the air like chaff; and strong trees were uprooted as if they had been cornstalks. The best part of the city is totally destroyed. About the only buildings saved worthy of mention are the Mint, the church, and the old State college. These stood on high grounds, and this advantage, with their solidity, saved them. Dr. Hill, an American resident, had three houses carried away, and is a loser to the amount of about 10,000 dollars. T. Robinson Burns, an American, doing a banking business here, had his banking-house swept away. Others have suffered severely. The loss of life has been quite large. Sixty dead bodies have been picked up; some of them were mangled fearfully, and could scarcely be recognised. Many of the bodies were found miles down the river. Undoubtedly, the number will be largely increased by other unfortunate ones. I have written these few lines hurriedly, but do not attempt to describe or explain the most extraordinary phenomena of a two hours' severe whirlwind and deluge. The ruined city of Alamos was the Athens of north-western Mexico, or at least had that reputation. At the time of its destruction it contained a population of about 7,000 souls."

PATRI has returned to Paris from St. Petersburg, rich in gifts and Russian fame.

As a proof, he mentioned that in the West-end goldsmith's establishment where he is foreman, and where he has been employed 25 years, he never met a Sabatarian. Several workmen connected with different trades followed Mr. Morell, and spoke of the great good which had attended the opening of Kew Gardens on Sundays. All the speakers disclaimed any wish to have theatres or places of amusement simply open on Sundays. The second and third deputations represented persons in favour of the present state of things, or possibly increased stringency. The first consisted in part of working men, the second principally of clergymen, or laymen well known in connection with religious societies, their special object being to ask the Government to oppose Mr. Hughes's Sunday Trading Bill. To all the deputations alike Mr. Bruce expressed himself very frankly as being in favour of opening museums and galleries on Sundays. He had been made a martyr, he said, for holding that opinion, but he held it still, and if the matter depended only upon him he should be ready to concede what was asked by the advocates of change. The point, however, to be borne in mind was that this was essentially a popular question. Public opinion must really decide it, and it was for the Government, whatever they might themselves think on the subject, to act in accordance with public opinion.

CONSUMPTION IS CURABLE.—TO CONSUMPTIVES.—A clergyman, whose son has been miraculously cured of deep consumption, desires, in gratitude, and for the benefit of the afflicted, to send full particulars of the remedies used in his son's case, so that all may participate in this providential discovery. Sent by post to any address free of charge. Address, The Secretary, 48, George-street, Portman-square, London.—ADVT.

THE BELL HARRY TOWER, CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

MANY of our volunteers *en route* to the Dover Review had an opportunity in the early morning of Monday week of going on the venerable Bell Harry Tower of Canterbury cathedral, of which we give an illustration. Canterbury cathedral is a noble pile, and forms a conspicuous object from whatever part of the city it may be viewed. It stands on the site of the cathedral anciently founded by St. Augustine, in connection with the monastery of Christ Church, established by Ethelbert, King of Kent, on his conversion to Christianity by St. Augustine, in 597. The oldest part of the present structure dates from 1184; the nave, cloister, and chapter-house are two centuries later, during the best period

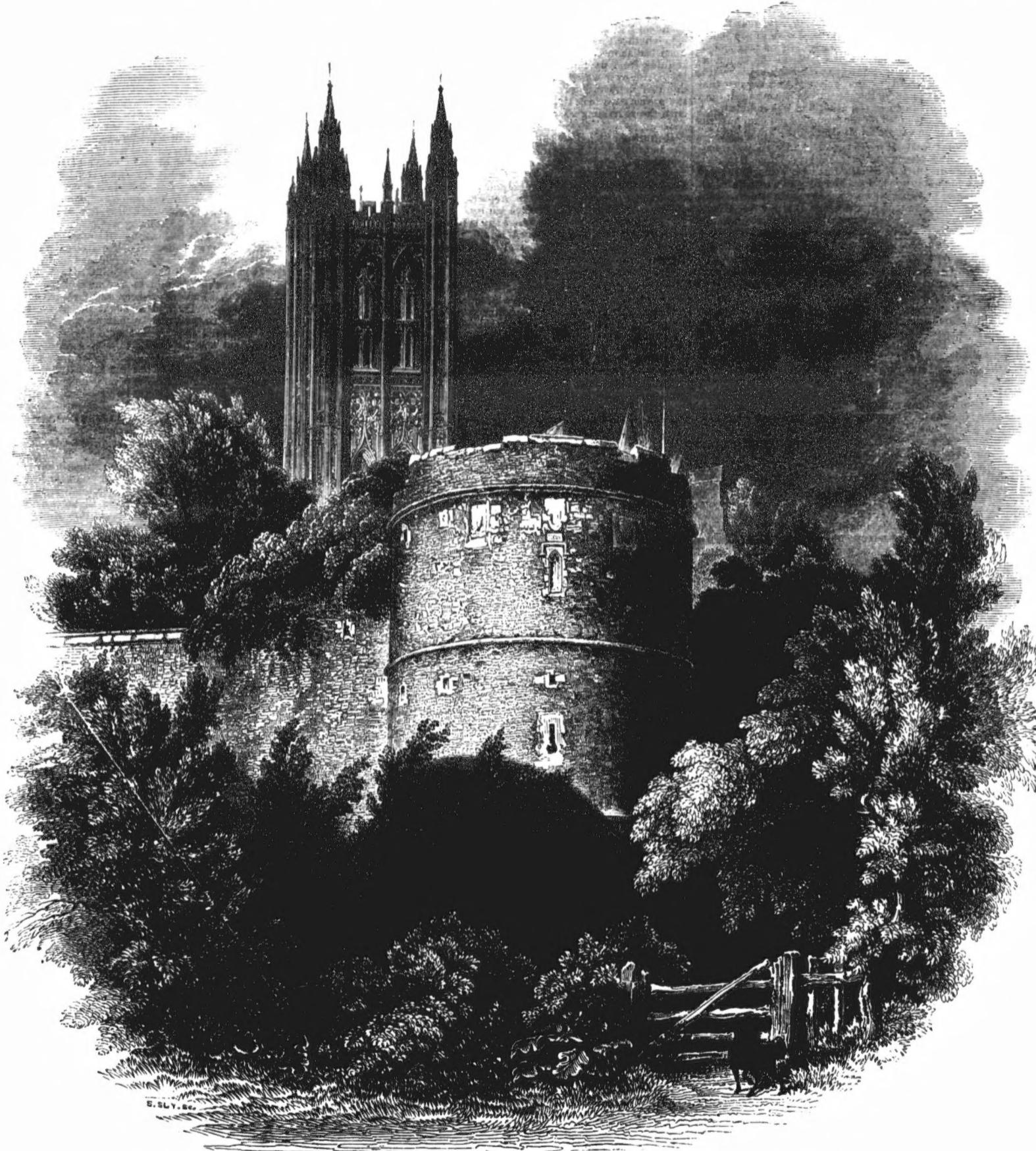
the day on which they were removed was celebrated as a great festival down to the Reformation; and devotees, not only from every part of England, but of Europe, made pilgrimages to the shrine of the saint, to the enrichment both of the establishment and of the city generally.

A supposed pilgrimage of this sort, such as was then usual, was made the medium of a lively description of the characters and customs of this day by the earliest of our great poets. In 1536 however, all high festivals occurring between July and September (which included the chief festival at Canterbury) were forbidden on the ground of their taking people from the necessary labours of harvest. But this was merely a prelude to more energetic measures; and in the following year Becket was thrust out of his place in the catalogue of saints, declared to have been a rebel, his bones being

PROCESSION OF THE GOD AND GODDESS OF THE OCEAN IN JAPAN.

As a contrast to the Easter religious processions on the Continent, illustrations of which we have given in a previous number, we now present a Japanese procession of the God and Goddess of the Ocean. These processions are numerous during the year, and present much of the appearance of the Indian Juggernaut, but without its horrors. The huge images on the Japanese cars are dedicated to various gods, such as the ocean, the sun, the earth, &c. They attract immense assemblages through the streets as will be seen from our engraving.

AN ASSASSIN BURNT ALIVE.—A family of seven persons were recently murdered in Guadalupe by a Chinese labourer,



THE BELL HARRY TOWER, CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

of the pointed ecclesiastical style; the interior is very fine, and the styles of different ages skilfully adapted to each other; the choir is the most spacious in the kingdom, and the great stained window accounted one of the finest. The structure is of the usual cruciform shape, with a semi-circular east-end, and is 513 feet in length inside, the central tower being 235 feet in height; under the whole is an old crypt or undercroft.

The ancient celebrity of this cathedral is partly attributable to its being associated with the first establishment of Christianity in England, but more especially to the murder of its famous archbishop, Thomas-a-Beckett, at the foot of one of its altars, in 1171. Becket having been canonised, his bones were, in 1220 removed with great pomp and expense, from the undercroft where they had previously been deposited, to the Trinity Chapel, built for the purpose. The anniversary of

at the same time burnt and scattered, and the treasury of his shrine appropriated to secular purposes.

In 1643 considerable injury was done to the cathedral in consequence of a parliamentary order to purify it, and subsequently the nave was converted into temporary barrack for Cromwell's troops. On the Restoration, the choir was refitted for Divine service; and now, for many years past, considerable funds have been annually devoted by the chapter to the restoration and improvement of this magnificent old structure which contains many interesting monumental remains; amongst others that of the Black Prince.

PRINTING IN ANTIQUE TYPE.—Judd and Class, of the Phoenix Works, St. Andrew's-hill, have, in addition to their extensive selection of Modern Types, complete Founts of Old-faced Letters, and execute orders for large and small Posting Bills, Circulars, Reports, &c., by Steam Machinery, with the utmost expedition. Estimates on application.

who afterwards robbed the house and escaped, but was subsequently captured. It would appear that after the arrest had been made and the prisoner was being conveyed to be placed in the hands of the judicial authorities, it was necessary to pass through the town of Guadalupe, and as the condition of the prisoner was such as to require rest, he was placed in the barracks under guard as the safest place. At a later hour the prefect learned that the inhabitants of the place were about to rescue him, and so take the law into their own hands. He gave orders to the guard to preserve a strict vigilance over their prisoner, but, despite of all precautions to prevent an outrage, the people attacked the gaol, overcame the guard, carried the prisoner to the public square, and there burned him alive in a fire that had been previously prepared. In the attack upon the gaol one citizen was wounded.

LAW AND POLICE.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

The April session of the Central Criminal Court was opened on Monday, at the Old Bailey, by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Mr. Alderman Lawrence, M.P.), the Recorder, (the Right Hon. Russell Gurney, Q.C., M.P.), Alderman Sir Robert Walter Carden, Mr. Alderman Causton, Mr. Alderman Owden, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Cotton, Mr. Sheriff Hutton, the Under-Sheriff, &c.

The first edition of the calendar contains the names of 95 prisoners, of whom 30 are committed from London, 53 from Middlesex, 6 from Kent, and 6 from Surrey. The offences are classified in the following manner:—Arson 3, burglary 12, forgery 5, uttering counterfeit coin 10, concealment of estate by bankrupt 2, embezzlement 3, feloniously being at large 1, housebreaking 4, larceny 19, misdemeanour 8, perjury 1, feloniously administering poison, 3, rape 2, receiving stolen goods 5, robbery with violence 7, warehouse breaking and larceny 6, and feloniously wounding 4.

While the grand jury was being empanelled several gentlemen asked to be excused on various grounds. In one instance, a gentleman who had been summoned sent a letter to the summoning-officer enclosing a medical certificate as to the state of his health. The certificate was returned to the writer with a request that some one might be sent to prove the statements it contained. As no one appeared in court to do so the usual fine was inflicted. A gentleman asked to be exempted on the ground of old age, but was informed that age was no excuse for serving on the grand jury.

THREE men, named Reid, Harwood, and Andrews, were convicted of breaking and entering the warehouse of Alfred Depenna, and stealing a large quantity of ostrich feathers, value £300; and a woman, named Jane Haywood, pleaded guilty to a charge of receiving part of them, knowing them to have been stolen. The Recorder sentenced Harwood, against whom there were several previous convictions, to seven years' penal servitude; Reid to six months', and Andrews to eighteen months' hard labour; and Mrs. Haywood, who had been six weeks in prison waiting her trial, to two months' imprisonment.

FELONIOUSLY RETURNING FROM TRANSPORTATION.—At the same court, George Roberts, 66, pleaded guilty to three indictments charging him with being feloniously at large before the expiration of a period of transportation to which he had been sentenced by this court. It appeared from the reading of the indictments that the prisoner had been twice sentenced to be transported for life, and once for 14 years. He was first convicted in the year 1837. Mr. Poland, who was instructed to prosecute on behalf of the Treasury, said that the prisoner was twice sent out to the colonies, but on each occasion he contrived to escape. He was afterwards convicted of a burglary, and sentenced to 14 years' transportation, and was again sent out to one of the colonies, but released on a ticket of leave, and the moment he returned to this country he resumed his old course. The prisoner, when called upon to say if he had anything to urge why sentence should not be passed upon him addressed the court and said he was an old man, and entreated his lordship not to send him back to the same punishment. He had endured a martyrdom for 30 years, and had frequently been tempted to commit murder in order that he might be hanged and escape from the misery and cruelty he had to undergo. He had been treated worse than a slave, and had seen prisoners murder each other in order that they might be hanged. He again entreated his lordship to have mercy upon him. The Recorder said that of course the "way of transgressors was hard," and if men offended against the laws of their country they must take the consequences. No doubt he had suffered very severely, but this was the punishment for his crime, and it appeared that directly he obtained his liberty he again commenced his evil courses. Under these circumstances he had no alternative but to pass upon him a sentence of penal servitude for life.

OBTAINING GOODS UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.—Thomas Gosling, a very respectable-looking man, surrendered to take his trial for obtaining goods by false pretences. Mr. F. H. Lewis and Mr. Straight conducted the prosecution; Mr. Montagu Williams appeared for the defence. This case occupied the court for several hours, but the facts may be briefly narrated. The offence imputed to the defendant was that he had, in concert with other persons, been engaged in a system of passing fictitious cheques to tradesmen in London, and obtaining by that means a considerable amount of property from them. It appeared that on the 25th of last August the prisoner went to the warehouse of Mr. Biggs, a tobacconist, in Whitechapel, and purchased cigars to the amount of £14 ls. 6d., promising to send on the same evening and pay cash for them. Another person then went to the warehouse and presented a cheque for the amount, signed E. Hervey, upon the South Western Bank, Brixton, where there were no assets. In two other cases property was obtained from tradesmen by similar means, and it appeared that the man Hervey had opened a small account with the bank in question, but the whole of the money was withdrawn, and the remaining cheques were then used for the purpose of carrying out a regular system of fraud upon tradesmen in the metropolis. The prisoner was apprehended by a police sergeant named Hart, at Gravesend, where he was passing as Dr. Watson, and when he was told the nature of the charge against him he denied all knowledge of the man Hervey, and asserted that he was not the person by whom the forged cheque had been uttered. Witnesses were called for the purpose of showing that the defendant had been the cheife of the other man Hervey, but the evidence upon this point was not at all satisfactory. The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty. There was another indictment against the defendant of a similar character, and sentence was postponed.

EXTENSIVE EMBEZZLEMENT BY A CLERK.—John Thomas M'Murdie, 45, a gentlemanly-looking man, pleaded guilty to several indictments charging him with embezzling large sums of money, the property of the London Assurance Company, his masters. Mr. Metcalfe, who was instructed to prosecute, said that the prisoner had been for 18 years in the service of the prosecutors, and great confidence was placed in him. Having regard to the long period of the prisoner's service, the prosecutors had no desire to press the case harshly against him, but the nature of the charge and the duty they owed to the public prevented them from recommending him to the mercy of the court. In answer to a question put by the learned judge, Mr. Metcalfe stated that the total amount of the prisoner's defalcations was about £1,500. Mr. Montagu Williams, who appeared for the prisoner, stated that he was highly connected, and his character down to the period of the discovery was entirely irreproachable. He thought he might also state on behalf of the prisoner that the moment he was apprehended he at once admitted his guilt, and said that he should not give the prosecutors any trouble in proving the case. There were a number of witnesses in attendance for the purpose of speaking to the prisoner's character. The Recorder observed that the fact of the prisoner having been for 18 years in the employment of such an establishment as the prosecutors' was quite sufficient to show what his position and character must have previously been. Mr. Metcalfe informed the court that the prisoner filled the position of second cashier to the company. The prisoner was then called up for judgement, and the Recorder, observing that he had been guilty of a very serious offence, which was aggravated by the responsible position he occupied, and by the fact that he did not appear to have yielded to any sudden temptation, but to have carried on a system of plunder upon the company for a period of four years, sentenced him to be kept in penal servitude for seven years.

THE ACCOUNTANT OF THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS IN TROUBLE.—At the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday, Mr. Edward Hughes, late chief accountant of the Metropolitan Board of Works, was tried on a charge of embezzling two sums of money, amounting respectively to £665 13s. 8d. and £112 10s. The total amount of the deficiency in the prisoner's accounts was stated to be about £2,000. He had a private banking account at the Union Bank with the knowledge of the Board, and it was part of the case for the prosecution that instead of having only one banking account he had private accounts with five different banking establishments, and that he had placed the two sums above mentioned, which ought to have been expended on account of the board to his own private account. It was elicited in cross-examination that the amounts were duly entered in the prisoner's pass-book, and it also appeared that during the four years he had filled the appointment of chief accountant to the board more than £300,000, the moneys of the board, had passed through his hands, that his accounts were exceedingly well kept, and that nearly all the vouchers for the sums expended by him in his capacity of accountant to the board were duly forthcoming when an investigation took place. The Common Sergeant, in summing up, said it was for the jury to decide whether the prisoner in paying the money intended to draw upon it dishonestly, or whether he had a sufficient reason for abstaining from paying the sums at once to the chief account of the board, over which he had no control. The jury after a few minutes' deliberation returned a verdict of "Not Guilty;" and the prosecution took time to consider whether they would proceed with the remaining charges in the indictment.

ROBBING ONE'S FATHER.—At the Middlesex sessions on Tuesday morning a lad named Parish, aged fifteen, was charged with stealing a silver bracelet and other articles, worth £40, and money to the amount of £120, from his father, who lives in Salisbury-street, Portman-market; and James Secker, aged twenty-one, was charged with receiving the property, knowing it to have been stolen. Both prisoners pleaded guilty. Secker appears to have planned the robbery, and induced the lad Parish to rob his father. All the property was recovered by the police. Secker was sentenced to eighteen months' and Parish to three months' hard labour.

AN ADVERTISING DODGE.—At the same sessions, Charles Walter Claridge, aged 45, pleaded guilty to obtaining money by false pretences. He had made a practice of going to parsons advertising for assistants in the military business, and stating that he wished to find situations of that description for his daughters, expressing his willingness to pay a handsome premium. He would, on going away, suddenly discover that he had lost or forgotten his purse, and borrow small sums of money which he never returned. Several previous convictions were proved against the prisoner, and he was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. A man named Breen, who was convicted of stealing 12lb. of bacon from a shop, and against whom a previous conviction was proved, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. The prisoner said the police prevented him from getting a living.

GAS STEALING.—Sentence was passed on Tuesday at the West Riding sessions upon John Firth, convicted some months ago of stealing 50,000 cubic feet of gas, the property of the Halifax Corporation. The fraud was effected by intercepting the gas from the mains of the Corporation by means of a pipe, introduced at a point where the gas could be obtained and used without the quantity being recorded by the meter. At the trial certain legal points were reserved for the opinion of the Court of Criminal Appeal; but the conviction was confirmed, and the defendant now came up for sentence. The presiding magistrate said the evidence showed that the Halifax Corporation had been abominably robbed by a system of fraud which had been carried on for ten or eleven years, and sentenced the defendant to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

ANOTHER BURIAL SOCIETY.—A woman applied to Mr. Self on Monday, at the Westminster police-court, for his advice. Her son, she stated, who had recently died, was a member of a burial society called the "Hearts of Oak" Society. His representatives at his death were entitled to £12, but the society had refused to pay more than £8, because, they said, the deceased had paid his last subscription four days too late. It appeared that the society's office was in Greek-street, Soho. Mr. Self said that was out of his jurisdiction, and he could therefore have nothing to do with the case, as, unfortunately, there were "Hearts of Oak" enough in his own district. He told the applicant, however, that she could take out a summons against the society in the police district in which the money was paid.

OBTAINING MONEY BY FRAUD.—At Marlborough-street two men, who are described as having the appearance of excavators, were charged with endeavouring to obtain money by fraud. They went into the shop of Mr. Hall, a grocer in Wardour-street, said that they were dustmen, and handed him a begging petition, purporting to be for the benefit of the "widow of James West." Mr. Hall, believing from the story the man told and the wording of the petition that they were imposters, gave them into custody.

GROSS INGRATITUDE.—Mrs. Lamb, of Wellington-road, Fulham, went into a public-house in the King's-road, Chelsea, on Sunday night a few minutes after eleven o'clock, to get change for a sovereign, as she wished to take a cab home. A man who was in the public-house followed her into the street and begged for sixpence to obtain a night's lodging with. He followed the lady for some distance, and at last, to get rid of him, she said she would give him three pence. She took out her purse to get the money, and the man then seized her by the wrist with one hand, snatched the purse out of her hand with the other, and ran away. He was apprehended by the police on Monday night, brought up at the Westminster police-court on Tuesday morning, and committed for trial. He was named James Edwards.

THE LAW OF MARRIAGE.—A singular application has been heard by Mr. Woolrych, at the Lambeth police-court, on the question of the law of marriage.—A very respectable man entered the witness box, and addressing the magistrate said: My son has been living with a female for about nine years, and now wishes to marry her.—Mr. Woolrych: What is there to prevent it?—Applicant: Well, your worship, the female was married some nine years ago, but her husband, after being with her three months only, left, and has not since been heard of. My son has since been living with her and they wish to get married; but the clergyman objects to perform the ceremony, on the ground that there is no actual proof of the husband's death. Mr. Woolrych: Have you no clue as to the husband? Applicant: I have heard that when he left his wife he enlisted for a soldier.—Mr. Woolrych: I don't see how the minister could perform the ceremony without having the strongest possible proof of the husband's death. Supposing, however, the second marriage is solemnised, the female would not, in the event of her husband reappearing, be liable for the charge of bigamy, it being beyond seven years; but under such circumstances, or proof of the husband being alive, the second marriage would be illegal. You had better, if the husband enlisted, find out the regiment he joined; and further information might be obtained at the War Office, as to whether he is alive or not.—Applicant thanked his worship and left the court.

CURIOS ROBBERY.—At the Greenwich police-court on Tuesday Henry Foster, of Griffin-street, Deptford, was charged with robbery under somewhat peculiar circumstances. For some time past an old gentleman of eccentric habits, and possessing considerable property, which he kept locked up in boxes, had rented a room in the prisoner's house. The old gentleman recently became dangerously ill, and was visited by a daughter living in the

Blackheath-road, who directed that in the event of any change for the worst taking place in her father's condition she was to be at once informed of it. The old gentleman died, however, and no message was sent to the daughter. On the day after his death she went to see her father, and on being informed of his death expressed a desire to have the corpse removed to a neighbouring undertaker's and arrangements made for its burial. Access to the room occupied by the deceased was, however, denied her, until a certain sum was paid for washing and laying out the body, and also the rent of the room for the current week. The demands made were satisfied, and it was then discovered that the boxes which had belonged to the old gentleman, and which were invariably kept locked, had been unfastened, their contents ransacked, and many writings, including, it is supposed, a will, burnt. A purse was found placed in the drawer of a table, but it only contained a few silver coins. Articles belonging to the deceased were found in the prisoner's possession, and he was given into custody. Mr. Maude said a most heartless robbery had been committed, and as there was property still missing he should remand the prisoner until Tuesday next.

RELIGIOUS SQUABLES.—At the Thames police-court on Wednesday Robert Stokes, a stoker on the Great Eastern Railway, was charged with assaulting his wife. The complainant said she had been married two years to the prisoner, and for the last twelve months his conduct had been harsh and cruel. He frequently taunted her with being a Roman Catholic, which he knew when he married her, for they were married in a Roman Catholic chapel by a Romish priest. He had often struck and kicked her, and otherwise ill-treated her. In cross examination the woman said her husband was very industrious, and made seven days' work per week. She never told him she did not like him because he was a Protestant and a member of the Church of England. She did refuse to procure meat for his dinner on Good Friday; she had a fish dinner on that day. The defendant's counsel said that the man had been nine years in the employ of one company; that he was a steady man, but that his wife was always "nagging" him and taunting him with being a heretic. Mr. Benson said the couple were very foolish to quarrel about religion, and had better leave theology alone. Their religions were very nearly alike. A Roman Catholic was as good as a Protestant, and a Protestant as good as a Roman Catholic. Good Friday was an awkward day on which to talk to a woman of the complainant's faith about meat. They must bear and forbear, or they would be always unhappy. He had no doubt the prisoner was a good workman, and sober and studious, but he was afraid his temper was a bad one, and that he had used his wife very brutally. The complainant was the most creditable woman of her class he had ever met with, and deserved better treatment. If the prisoner was ever brought before him again for a similar offence, he would send him to prison for a very long time. He ordered him now to find bail, two sureties in £10 each, to keep his peace towards his wife for twelve months. The sureties were provided.

EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE OF ROBBERY.—At Greenwich on Tuesday, Henry Foster, a middle-aged man, of Griffin-street, Deptford, was placed in the dock, before Mr. Maude, on the following extraordinary charge of robbery. It appeared that for some time past an elderly gentleman of rather peculiar habits, and possessing considerable property, which was kept locked in boxes, had rented a room in the house in which the prisoner resided, and having recently become dangerously ill he was visited by a daughter. The daughter left word that in the event of any change for the worse in the old gentleman's condition taking place she was to be at once communicated with; but notwithstanding that death had taken place, no such communication was made. On the day following that of the death the daughter went to see her parent, and hearing what had occurred, she expressed a desire to enter the room in order that the corpse might be removed to a neighbouring undertaker's, and arrangements made for its burial. Access to the room, however, was denied her until a certain sum was paid for washing and laying out the body, and also the rent of the room for the current week. The demands made were satisfied, and it was then discovered that the whole of the boxes which had belonged to the deceased, and which were invariably kept locked, were unfastened, their contents ransacked, and many writings, including, it is supposed, a will, burnt. A purse which the deceased was known to carry upon his person, even during his last illness, containing a large sum of money, was found deposited in the drawer of a table, but only containing a few silver coins. Mr. Inspector King, of the Greenwich sub-division of police, was communicated with, and Ling, a plain clothes officer, was employed in the case. Among the more prominent articles missed were a liqueur stand, containing four cut-glass bottles, and a plate basket, respecting which the prisoner was questioned, and of which he denied all knowledge, but on the room he occupied being searched, these and other articles were found, and he was given into custody. The prisoner, in his defence, said the articles found in his room were given him by the deceased a month ago; but, the deceased's daughter said that only on Wednesday last her father had expressed a wish that she should have the liqueur stand. Mr. Maude said a most heartless robbery had been committed of goods belonging to the family of the deceased immediately after the death had left the body. As there was property still missing, he should remand the prisoner until Tuesday next.

SON OF THE KING OF DAHOMEY.—At the Marlborough-street police-court on Monday, James Mann, a man of colour, was charged with being in the house of Mr. Johnson, brazier, of Marybone-street, for an unlawful purpose. It appeared that the prisoner had taken apartments at Mr. Johnson's house at £3 a week, for board and lodging. He said that he was the son of the King of Dahomey, that he had freighted a ship with gold dust of the value of £17,000, palm oil worth £7,000, and other produce, and that he was in receipt of £10,000 a year from the Government of Sierra Leone. He appeared to be anxious to become acquainted with all the members of Mr. Johnson's family, and to see their watches, and asked if he could have change for a £10 note, with the object, Mr. Johnson now supposes, of learning where his money was kept. At the time, however, although he had some doubts respecting his lodger, he thought having "a live prize" in the house was "a great thing." He made inquiries of the Consul of Liberia, and finding that the prisoner's statements were false, gave him into custody. Mr. Gerard Ralston, of Langham-place, Consul-General for Liberia, said that the prisoner called upon him on Friday morning last, coming in a cab with "a beautiful white girl," and told him that he wanted to see him immediately on business. He told the prisoner that he had an important engagement in the City, and the prisoner said that he (Mr. Ralston) could ride in his cab that way, and they could call at the Inns of Court Hotel. On getting there the manager of the hotel asked him if he knew the prisoner, and he told him that he knew no more of him than from his having called on him that morning with a card with "Prince Mann" on it. He asked the prisoner who the beautiful young lady was, and he said she was the daughter of the Lord Chamberlain, and that he had been with his lordship that morning; the manager of the hotel told him (Mr. Ralston) that the prisoner had told him that the young lady was his (Mr. Ralston's) daughter, but he had no daughters. This induced him to state that he believed the prisoner to be a good-for-nothing fellow, and that he would have nothing to do with him. The prisoner told him that he had come to England to study law. When the prisoner called upon him he was dressed in an admiral's uniform. It appeared from inquiries made by the police that the admiral's uniform had been obtained from a tailor in Holborn, that the "beautiful young woman" who accompanied the prisoner was a woman of bad character, and that the prisoner himself had been a servant. He was remanded.

MRS. ALLEN'S HAIR RESTORER.

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